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NDEA Language Institute at MSU

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montana State University has received approval from the U. S. Office of Education to conduct a second National Defense Education Act Summer Institute for Secondary Teachers of French and Spanish during the summer of 1961, MSU President H. K. Newburn announced.

~~It is estimated that~~ the budget for the institute will ~~be approximately \$100,000~~ be provided by funds allocated under NDEA authorization, according to Dr. Newburn. Public school teachers will receive stipends of \$75 a week, plus \$15 a week for each dependent. Private school teachers will receive no stipends but will attend the institute without charge.

Fifty-two high school language teachers will be accepted for the institute, which will be in session from June 19 through August 11. The majority of the participants will be selected from the Northwest and Great Plains areas, but any secondary teacher of French or Spanish in the United States may apply.

The criteria for admission are: A bachelor's degree; at least two years of college study of French or Spanish, or the equivalent; present status as a foreign language teacher, preferably with at least one year of experience; evidence of good potential as a teacher, supported by recommendations.

Dr. Robert M. Burgess, chairman of the MSU Department of Foreign Languages, will direct the institute, and Dr. Douglas C. Sheppard of the language faculty will be assistant director. They served in the same capacities last summer for MSU's first NDEA language institute, which had 40 participants. They will be aided by five visiting professors, six native speakers and two language laboratory assistants, plus a number of visiting lecturers.

(more)

Every effort will be made to re-create the atmosphere the participants would find if they were living in a country where the language they will study is the native tongue, according to Dr. Burgess. They will be encouraged to speak the language at all times - in the dormitories and at the dining tables as well as in the classrooms. Native speakers will live with each language group to aid in the less formal parts of the program.

This actual practice in speaking and understanding the language will supplement a seminar in language teaching and demonstration classes where the latest techniques of language instruction will be related to cultural aspects of the countries in which French and Spanish are spoken, Dr. Burgess noted.

Brochures about the institute will be sent to language teachers in the Northwest and Great Plains regions, Dr. Burgess added.

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