



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS, Coloradans possess a wealth of cultural and linguistic resources that are critical to our transnational economy, diverse population, and the interconnected global community; and*

*WHEREAS, studies have demonstrated that proficiency in more than one language enhances communication and strengthens positive interactions among people at home and around the globe; and*

*WHEREAS, having competency in diverse languages and cultures enhances pupils' literacy and numeracy skills, leading to increased achievement on both verbal and quantitative tests; and*

*WHEREAS, the study of languages and cultures affords the unique opportunity to gain insight into the history, heritage, and perspectives of all Coloradans as well as other communities around the globe and increases understanding and encourages respect for people of different backgrounds; and*

*WHEREAS, the Lead With Languages campaign was established to highlight the value of learning languages and cultures; and*

*WHEREAS, the bipartisan bill that establishes a Seal of Literacy, which recognizes Colorado high school graduates who are proficient in a second language, was signed into law by Governor Hickenlooper; and*

*WHEREAS, a Colorado world languages educator, Ms. Heather Witten, a Spanish teacher at Elizabeth High School, was recently named to the Colorado Congress of Foreign Language Teachers' Teacher of the Year.*

*Therefore, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim, February 2019, as*

**WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES MONTH**

*GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this twenty-fifth day of January of 2019*

  
Jared Polis  
Governor

