

## The Global Language Project Receives Pepsi Refresh Grant

When she traveled internationally for work and when she lived in France, Angela Jackson saw firsthand that most children abroad were multilingual, which positioned them better for opportunities in higher education and the global marketplace. Upon returning to the United States, she also found that most children in underserved communities in our country did not have these opportunities because they didn't receive instruction in a language other than English. So in 2009, Jackson founded the Global Language Project (GLP), partnering with language educators and public schools to create a curriculum and after-school program teaching critical-needs languages to underserved schoolchildren. GLP's first program launched in September 2009 at P.S. 368 Hamilton Heights School in Harlem, offering 30 third-graders instruction in Mandarin or Spanish until their eighth-grade year.

GLP's mission is to equip disadvantaged elementary public school students in New York City to compete in a globalized world and workforce by providing a comprehensive language-training program aimed at helping them achieve fluency in a language other than English. It includes the After-School Language Program, a structured six-year curriculum teaching critical-needs languages; the Neighborhood Language Partnership, a partnership with multilingual businesses and organizations in local communities helping students practice languages they are learning and promoting multicultural appreciation; and the Research, Metrics and Evaluation Study, evaluation and assessment of the GLP curriculum and program. Teachers College, Columbia University provides support in curriculum and program development to the project, and New York University provides curriculum development for the Mandarin After-School Language Program, as well as research and assessment support for the Research, Metrics and Evaluation Study.

Jackson reports that since its inception, the organization has made a lot of progress. "This spring we launched a second program serving 50 additional students in conjunction with the Harlem YMCA," she explains. She also used input from ACTFL Director of Education Marty Abbott to further improve the program, focusing on making the classes more interactive while working a majority of time in the target language. The GLP is funded entirely by private donations, so the Pepsi Refresh Grant will greatly benefit its efforts. According to Pepsi, the Pepsi Refresh Project gives America "the power to decide how to fund good ideas, big and small, that help refresh our world." It began in 2009, and after only four months had funded more than 100 projects and injected more than \$5 million back into local communities. There have been more than 2 million users registered on the site, and more than 5,000 ideas have come from all 50 states. Pepsi accepts 1,000 new ideas every month, and you can vote for up to 10 ideas every day (including your own if you submit one). The project awards 32 new grants and \$1.3 million each month, and it features six categories: Health, Arts & Culture, Food & Shelter, The Planet, Neighborhoods and Education.

Jackson has this to say to the ACTFL leadership and to all of the ACTFL members who have offered support to her organization: "I want to thank you for supporting the Global Language Project in our campaign to win the April 2010 Pepsi Refresh grant. Because of your support, GLP finished the voting in the top 10 and has

won the award. I truly appreciate the messages, tweets and overall level of commitment you gave our team. It was more than I could have imagined! We will use 100% of the grant to expand our program at PS 368 while keeping it free for all students.”

To Learn More

For additional information about the Global Language Project and the Pepsi Refresh Project, here are the websites to visit.

Global Language Project

[www.globallanguageproject.org](http://www.globallanguageproject.org)

Pepsi Refresh Project

[www.refresheverything.com](http://www.refresheverything.com)