



NATIONAL TEACH SPANISH WEEK PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Spanish is the official language in twenty countries as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, Spanish is the third most widely-spoken language in the world with over half-a-billion speakers; and

WHEREAS, Spanish continues to be the second-most spoken mother language in the world; and

WHEREAS, Spanish is the second-most spoken language in the United States with thirteen percent of US residents being Spanish-English bilinguals; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated by the US Census Bureau that by 2050, the United States will have over 130 million Spanish speakers; and

WHEREAS, Latin American countries are our most important trading partners; and

WHEREAS, Spanish-speakers in the US have become not only a powerful group in terms of buying power, but also represent a key demographic group for national, state, and local politics; and

WHEREAS, nine out of ten business owners in the United States prefer employees who can speak Spanish and state that second language skills are very important for professional success in the current business environment; and

WHEREAS, research shows that learning an additional language improves brain function and cognitive skills unrelated to language; and

WHEREAS, teachers and professors of Spanish recognize the unique and influential cultural and literary contributions of Spanish-speaking people within our humanistic tradition; and

WHEREAS, the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese shares a priority with language teachers nationwide to engage students with Spanish, improve intercultural competence, and strengthen global communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Sheri Spaine Long, Executive Director of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, do hereby proclaim that the last week of September will be known henceforth as National Teach Spanish Week and encourage all Spanish teachers and everyone in the US to recognize the positive impact of Spanish language education in our nation; to thank those who teach; and to find ways to support multilingualism and multiculturalism in the United States of America.

National Teach Spanish Week was adapted from National Teach Spanish Day that was founded by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese on September 30, 2019, in Birmingham, AL.
(Revised 2022)