MEDIA RELEASE

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URI partners with fellowship program to offer graduate studies and certification scholarships to address French dual language teacher shortage

Kingston, RI – May 9, 2018 – The University of Rhode Island’s School of Education has partnered with the Future Immersion Teacher (FIT) Fellowship to provide scholarships for aspiring French dual language and immersion teachers to pursue specialized graduate degrees and certificate programs.

The initiative is intended to build momentum for the next generation of French dual language educators and address a critical teacher shortage of dual language programs across the country.

Students admitted to URI’s master’s degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)/Bilingual and Dual Language Immersion program with a focus on French can apply for a FIT Fellowship of $10,000 to support graduate work.

Students admitted to URI’s online certification program in TESOL/Bilingual and Dual Language Immersion with a focus on French may be eligible for a FIT Fellowship of $5,000.

The scholarship application deadline is August 20, 2018.

“This scholarship program will provide students with opportunities to participate in the expanding field of dual language,” said Amy Correia, instructor in URI’s TESOL education program. “It is an incredible challenge to find individuals who have academic language and skills in two languages and who can teach content, too.”

She added that dual language teachers must be proficient in at least two languages, and have content knowledge to teach grade-level appropriate material in all academic subjects and culture topics.
There are more than 130 French dual language schools in the U.S.

“As the desire for bilingualism grows in both monolingual and bilingual homes, so does the need for highly trained teachers to work in such schools,” Correia said.

The French Dual Language Fund, launched by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States, and the FACE Foundation, support French dual language and immersion programs across the country.

For more information and application forms, contact Amy Correia at correia@uri.edu in the School of Education.