WHEREAS, communities across our state and nation have increasing numbers of residents from other countries for whom English is their second language; and

WHEREAS, offering great opportunities, our growing social, cultural and economic ties to the global community present new challenges in our efforts to communicate with and understand our international partners; and

WHEREAS, the study of other languages contributes to increased cognitive skills, academic performance and understanding of others while enhancing career possibilities and developing a workforce equipped with the necessary skills to compete in the international marketplace; and

WHEREAS, foreign language educators are committed to promoting the benefits of long-term language study to effective communication with people from other cultures, enhancing our country’s security around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim 2005 as

THE YEAR OF LANGUAGES

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn about and participate in language programs and services offered across our state.