

The partnership, with the technology-based education company K12 Inc., will allow Middlebury to achieve two goals, said Ronald D. Liebowitz, the president of the college: It will help more American students learn foreign languages, an area in which they lag far behind Europeans; and it will give Middlebury another source of revenue.

"We wanted to do something about the fact that not enough American students are learning other languages, and it's harder for students if they don't learn language until college," Mr. Liebowitz said. "It is also my belief, and I think our board's belief, that finding potential new sources of revenue is not a bad thing. By doing what we're doing with this venture, we hope to take some stress off our three traditional sources of revenue—fees, endowment and donations."

Middlebury, a 2,400-student liberal-arts college with an endowment of more than \$800 million, has offered summer immersion language classes for almost a century, and now teaches 10 languages in those programs at its campus and, as of last year, some at Mills College in Oakland, Calif.

Partnerships between universities and commercial entities have become increasingly common in recent years, but the Middlebury venture is unusual in that it ties the college's academic reputation in foreign languages to a third-party vendor. Moving into such an uncharted area carries risks, education experts said.

"These partnerships are starting as ways for colleges, which may feel themselves cash-strapped, to make some bucks," said Philip G. Altbach, the Monan professor of higher education at Boston College. "I have problems with the whole thing, particularly for a place like Middlebury, which has a reputation as one of the best liberal-arts colleges in the country, and for doing a very good job with languages. They should protect that brand. They are not known for online programs, and to jump in to the deep end of the swimming pool, with a for-profit, is in my view dangerous."

Mr. Liebowitz said that although the move carried risks, so, too, does inaction. "The way I see it, to retain our leadership in the teaching of foreign language, we have to evolve with the times," he said. "And where things are going, in terms of access and education, is online."

In 2008, Middlebury joined with the Monterey Institute of International Studies, a California graduate school, to start the Middlebury-Monterey Language Academy, an intensive language-immersion summer program for students in grades 8 through 12. That program, which will expand to new sites in the new venture, offers four-week residential sessions at Green Mountain College in Vermont, Oberlin College in Ohio, Pomona College in California, and Bard College at Simon's Rock in Massachusetts.

Middlebury has also expanded its academic-year study-abroad sites, the C. V. Starr-Middlebury Schools Abroad, to 35 cities across 14 countries. Almost half the students at those sites now come from other colleges.

A hallmark of Middlebury's language schools has been a formal pledge to speak only the language of study during the session.

Of course, online programs cannot replicate the immersion experience.

The online expertise for the venture will come from K12, a publicly traded company based in Herndon, Va. In partnership with charter schools and school districts, K12 operates online public-school programs in 25 states and Washington. K12 also operates the K12 International Academy, an accredited, diploma-granting online private school serving students in more than 40 countries.

"We plan to make the courses available to individual kids, home-school kids, charter virtual schools, and teachers who might want them as supplements," Mr. Liebowitz said. "I think the price point will be somewhere in the vicinity of \$100."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE DENNISON

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize an outstanding leader from my home State of Montana as he embarks on a new adventure in his life. Since 1990 George Dennison has served as the president of the University of Montana; he is now the longest serving president in the history of the institution. This summer on August 15, 20 years to the day after he began his duties at UM, President Dennison is retiring. I would like to speak today about some of George's achievements and all he has done to better higher education in Montana.

A historian by training, George earned a bachelor's degree with highest honors from the University of Montana in 1962, as well as his master's degree in 1963. After earning his Ph.D. in history from the University of Washington, George went on to serve as a professor and administrator for universities in Arkansas, Washington, and 18 years at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. George eventually returned to Missoula from Kalamazoo, MI, where he served as provost and vice president for academic affairs for Western Michigan University, to become president of the University of Montana in 1990.

I have enjoyed working with George during his tenure as president of the university. We share a strong desire to ensure that Montana's students have access to a high-quality, world class education that prepares them for the careers of the future and to be active members in their communities.

The University of Montana has seen tremendous growth under President Dennison's leadership. Over the past two decades, student enrollment has jumped from 10,000 to over 15,000. In the 20 years that George has served as president, more students have graduated from UM than did in the entire previous century. The number of doctorates awarded has increased from 15 to 75 annually. External research funding has expanded from \$7 million in 1990 to over \$170 million in 2010. The athletic programs at UM have competed well on a national level and have created a great sense of school and community spirit as the Griz have a faithful following throughout Big Sky country.

Like President Dennison, I strongly believe that an understanding of the world in which we live is essential to a well-rounded education. Under George's leadership, the university has developed strong international and exchange programs. Building on the work done by our dear friend Mike Mans-

field, the former Senate majority leader and Ambassador to Japan, UM has relationships with universities across Asia. These partnerships help strengthen our educational, diplomatic, and economic ties with our friends across the Pacific and carry on the legacy and good work of Mike and Maureen Mansfield.

One initiative on which I have been particularly proud to work with President Dennison is the educational and cultural exchange program that the university recently started with Vietnam. I invited the Vietnamese Ambassador to the U.S. to visit Missoula in 2008 to meet with President Dennison about the exchange. President Dennison then traveled to Vietnam last year to meet with several universities and subsequently signed memoranda of understanding with Can Tho University and Vietnamese National University to establish student and faculty exchanges. It is important that we provide our students, the leaders of tomorrow, with the knowledge they will need to thrive in our increasingly global society—this exchange program does just that.

George has received numerous awards and recognition during his time at UM including the Governor's Humanities Award in 2009, the Montana Excellence in Leadership Award in 2007, and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education Region VIII Leadership Award in 1999. President Dennison has received honorary doctorates from universities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. During his career, George has had a number of historical works published. His 1976 book, "The Dorr War: Republicanism on Trial, 1831-1861," was runner-up in the Frederick Jackson Turner Award Competition. Upon retiring as president, George plans to spend the first years of his retirement writing a history of the University of Montana.

I would like to once again thank President Dennison for all his hard work and commend him for his leadership over the years. I wish him and Jane all the best as they start a new chapter in their life.●

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR E. KATZ

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I wish to commend the life's work of a good man and a great American, Arthur E. Katz.

On Friday, April 23, Arthur was inducted into the U.S. Coast Guard Academy's Wall of Gallantry for his service to our Nation.

In 1963, Arthur graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, where soon afterward, he headed to Vietnam.

He served as commanding officer of USCGC *Point Cypress* from December 1965 to September 1966.

For his leadership and bravery during this tour of duty, Arthur was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for Valor.

Following his service in the Coast Guard, he went on to establish a successful business in Dunwoody, GA.