



OCTOBER 2 - 8, 2003 -- BEST GOODS AND SERVICES

Goods & Services

Best (and Most Unheralded) Learning Resource: Tennessee Foreign Language Institute It's not news that Americans have a reputation for being foreign language-deficient and a bit culturally aloof. Seeking to remedy this trend is the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute, located at 404 James Robertson Parkway. "We're definitely finding that we're behind the curve in terms of our language ability, which directly affects our global awareness," says institute director Janice Rodriguez. "By learning a language, you're taking a huge step in understanding a culture and its people. Plus, if we want to compete in a global economy, it just makes sense that we make an effort to understand the cultures we're doing business with." With the capability to teach more than 100 languages, TFLI seeks to identify and fill the needs of the community. "If three people are looking to learn Turkish, we'll offer a Turkish class," says Rodriguez. Likewise, the institute caters to the immigrant population by offering several *English as a Second Language* classes and even cultural awareness classes for people who might work directly with new arrivals to the U.S., such as policemen and members of the public health community. To learn more, call 741-7579 or go to www.foreignlanguages.org.

--Erin Edwards