



AILDI *News & Updates*

APRIL 2022 ISSUE

News, events, updates, opportunities:
Everything and anything related to AILDI and Indigenous languages!

[Our Website](#)

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE PROGRAM DIRECTORY *Highlight*

Thunder Valley Lakota Language & Education



Located in Pine Ridge Reservation's Porcupine District, Thunder Valley CDC Lakota Language & Education program provides a number of different initiatives supporting different community members.

With a comprehensive and culturally-integrated curriculum, the initiative provides youth activities and promotes oral history, spiritual health, and physical wellness through physical activity.

The program, started in 2007, currently has around 48 total staff and 16 specifically working with language. The program provides: (i) *Owáyawa Čík'ala* (Lakota Immersion Montessori) rooted our Lakota language and lifeways; (ii) *Owáyawa Thánka* (Elementary Immersion Class at Pine Ridge School for K-1st); (iii) *Wayáwa Thánkininyan* (Lakota Reclamation Program) to increase knowledge and confidence in of staff, families and communities in the language; (iv) *Wówapi na Itówapiškánškan Kágapi* (Comprehensive and culturally-integrated curriculum development designed by fluent speakers, educators, and community); (v) *Lakhótiya Škinčiyapi* (youth physical activities for wellness and

health); and, (vi) *Wówahokúŋkhiye*

The Initiative's work is organized with the *Oyate* at the top since as the initiative describes, the work is from and for the People. The initiative strives to follow the guidance and values of the community. The Initiative's Lifeways and Wellness Equity team connects the work of such Initiatives with the community, rooting work in *Lakol Wicohan*. Through healing, the Initiative holds that sovereignty, self-determination, and liberation are made possible. The Initiative situates this to extend to the *thiwáhe* (family), the *thiyóšpaye* (extended family unit), and more largely the entire *oyáte* (nation). A Board of Directors guides the program with the leadership team to ensure intended impact and goals.

Program staff report that awareness of language endangerment among community members is still low. Of 8% of polled members who are aware of this as an on-going serious concern, about half or 3-4% are actively involved in revitalization efforts. The disruption of generational transmission is creating a gap between elders and the young ones.

Relatedly, one of the recent challenges faced has been the passing of elders due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many were first speakers raised speaking Lakota and thinking in the language. As time goes on, more nations are dependent on adult second language learners and teachers. Securing funding is also challenging as a non-profit and the initiative is working to achieve sustainability.

Directors and staff are described as moving the work forward through strength and courage, always from a place of hope. The initiative's staff reports a feeling of responsibility because the People depend on them, stating "It's not what we do, it's who we are".

Short-term goals for the program are to extend the language immersion nest resource in the community to continue the current momentum. Long-term goals from 1 year – 5 years from now are to create a School and Language House to have a permanent situated space. The space is intended to be the Initiative's own, eschewing non-Native ways, created "with our grandmothers". While non-Native standards only stipulate children get a certain amount of minutes of language exposure a week, the larger mission of the school is complete immersion with constant language exposure.

Current projects including involving adults, including parents and other family, as more active participants within the program. Many initially become involved through their children in the school, and subsequently are trained under the language initiative. Through this method alone, we have already successfully created nine (9) teachers so far.

UPCOMING *Institute*

AILDI Summer Institute

JUNE 6TH – JULY 7TH, 2022



AILDI SUMMER 2022 REGISTRATION OPEN!

**SUMMER 2022 SESSION DATES
JUNE 6 – JUNE 30, 2022**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE BY MAY 23,
2022**

**TUITION AND FEES:
UNDERGRADUATE \$1,519.62*
GRADUATE \$1,660.62***

*cost is for one, 3 unit course

[Pre-Registration](#)
[Undergraduate Application](#)
[Graduate Application](#)
[Scholarship Application](#)

Go to: <https://aildi.arizona.edu/> for more information on applying

COURSES



AILDI 2022 COURSES

June 6 – June 30
Tuition and Fees

Undergraduate: \$1,519.62 (one, three unit course)
Graduate: \$1,660.62 (one, three unit course)



Samantha Prins

LING 427/527
Linguistics for Native American
Communities

Sheilah Nicholas

TLS 410/510
Reclaiming Our Indigenous
Superpowers: Reinstating the Original
Vision through Unapologetic Action in
Our Language Work
&
TLS 402/502
Virtual Immersion: Language Cultivation
in Virtual Spaces



Vanessa Anthony-Stevens

TLS 495/595
Centering Indigenous Language &
Culture Education in Times of Rapid
Change (working title)



For more information, visit: aildi.arizona.edu
Contact: COE-AILDI@email.arizona.edu
(520) 621-1068

THEME

Centering Our Indigenous Language Learner



The 2022 summer theme emphasizes the importance of centering language teaching on ancestral and tribal frameworks. Through the courses, guest speakers and shared experiences, students will be empowered to develop language lessons for the home, classroom, and community classes drawing on the wellspring of their tribal cultural values. By the end of the session, students will learn, or re-learn that their own distinctive tribal culture is the foundation for their language curriculum. Tribal culture is a living curriculum.

For full course descriptions and more information, visit the AILDI site.

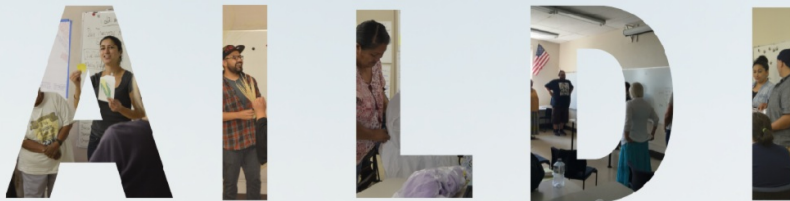
For any remaining questions, contact us at

COE-aildi@email.arizona.com.

Look out for future newsletters for more information.

AILDI is committed to continuing to safeguard individual and community health. This session for the Summer Institute is planning to be held in person and via on-line synchronous and asynchronous flex-modalities, but is subject to change due to any COVID-19 health and safety precautions.

SCHOLARSHIPS



Scholarships available for Summer 2022 session

DEADLINE TO APPLY: MAY 11TH, 2022



**AILDI is pleased to offer partial
tuition scholarships for the upcoming
summer session.**

[Apply now!](#)

Contact coe-aildi@email.arizona.edu or visit aildi.arizona.edu for
more information



Focusing on Indigenous Languages

The United Nations General Assembly has announced 2022 - 2032 as the Decade of Indigenous Languages. The purpose of this period of time is to draw attention on a global scale to the critical state of indigenous languages, and to mobilize stakeholders and resources to preserve, revitalize, and promote indigenous languages. This period offers a unique opportunity for global officials to collaborate on policy development in order to stimulate a global dialogue.

For more information, visit the UNESCO site: en.unesco.org/idil2022-2032

LANGUAGE *Directory*

Won't you share the work you do for your language?
Be featured in our directory.

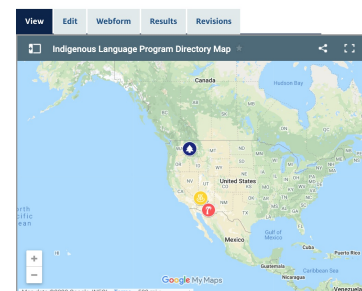
Our intention is to compile a directory map of Indigenous language departments, programs, classes, and efforts across the continent increasing support and awareness. Each entry contains information to serve as a resource for those interested in learning about your language work, learning their language, or collaborative work.

Help us all stay more connected.

SUBMIT your entry to AILDI's Indigenous Language Program Directory [here](#).

[*Visit the AILDI Directory here*](#)

Indigenous Language
Program Directory Map



ONGOING *Projects*

Support Indigenous Language Stewards at AILDI
with a donation towards student scholarships

Support from our friends makes AILDI possible for future generations of students, teachers, community members, and



activists.

All donations go towards AILDI scholarships and any amount—however big or small—is welcome.

If you have ever attended AILDI, you know its value. Honor your experience by giving back today!

[Click here to donate](#)

Share with us

Are you, your loved ones, or your community using any online immersion methods or digital resources we may not know about?



Please share them with us so we all continue to use, learn, teach and grow language!

[Take our brief survey](#) to share any immersion techniques you use or any online resources you know!

If you or someone you know has used any of the resources highlighted in AILDI newsletters, please send us your feedback, thoughts, or comments at aildi2011@gmail.com.

[Sign up for our newsletter!](#)



The American Indian Language Development Institute's (AILDI) mission is to provide critical training to strengthen efforts to revitalize and promote the use of Indigenous languages across generations. This is accomplished by engaging educators, schools, Indigenous communities and policy makers nationally and internationally through outreach, transformative teaching, purposeful research and collaborative partnerships. As a result of our work, we envision that the larger society will know that language revitalization is critical to sustain and reinforce Indigenous linguistic, cultural, physical, and spiritual health and identity.