ABOUT AILDI
AILDI is part of the Teaching, Learning and Sociocultural Studies Department within the College of Education at The University of Arizona. It was founded in 1978 with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Cited by the U.S. Department of Education as one of ten outstanding programs for minority teacher preparation, AILDI continues to be the standard bearer for Indigenous language education.

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, and spiritual health and identity.

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A second summer session was conducted on-site at the Gila River Indian Community, July 5-21, 2017. Held early in FY 2018, information for that course will be shared in the next annual report.

Curriculum and Faculty

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.

Annual Summer Institute

Theme – Language Education and Linguistics: A Holistic Immersion Experience

June 5 – 29, 2017
Participants: 27, representing 11 Tribal Nations

Joint sponsorship by AILDI and the Huhugam Heritage Center Language Program, Gila River Indian Community.

Outreach and Presentations

Isleta Pueblo, New Mexico

AILDI partnered with the Native American Linguistics graduate program to expand campus activities designed to create awareness of linguistic diversity.

Salt River Fima-Maricopa O’odham Piptaash Language and Culture Teacher Gathering, March 11, 2017

ILA2017

Participants: 105, representing 33 Tribal Nations

The Indigenous Languages Survival Kit: Identifying the Essential Components. Held in conjunction with the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries & Museums annual conference (ATALM), October 9, 2017, Gila River Indian Community.

Arizona Language Vitality Special Project

The National Science Foundation, Documenting Endangered Languages Program awarded a grant, BSC #1601738, to AILDI through the Linguistics Department.

The purpose of the pilot project is to review existing assessment tools and survey methodologies, with the goal of enabling participants to create innovative assessment tools for use in determining the current vitality of Native American languages. Representatives from the Ak-Chin Indian Community, Navajo Nation, San Carlos Apache Tribe and the Tohono O’odham Nation participated in three workshops held at The University of Arizona, Tucson.

Accomplishments

AILDI extended its outreach to Oregon and Colorado by working with tribal communities and organizations to offer on-site workshops. A national scope was also achieved by conducting the Language Summit that yielded important information regarding the status of tribal language revitalization efforts. AILDI received The 2016 Guardian of Culture & Lifeways award from the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries & Museums. AILDI Director Dr. Ophelia Zepeda was honored with the 2016 Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession from the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages, Modern Languages Association.

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.

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