

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. More detailed information about the history and creation of AILDI can be found at aildi.arizona.edu.

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.

Staff

Ofelia Zepeda
Director and Regents' Professor Linguistics

Alyce Sadongei
Project Coordinator

Kirsten Ratta
Administrative Assistant

Nelson Santiago
Graduate Associate

Founder

Lucille Watahomigie

The University of Arizona Supporters

College of Education, Department of Teaching
Learning and Sociocultural Studies
Linguistics Department
American Indian Studies Department
Graduate College

Critical Training
Purposeful Research
Transformative Teaching
Collaborative Partnerships



American Indian Language Development Institute

The University of Arizona
Annual Report Fiscal Year
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

*40 Years of Commitment to
Indigenous Language Education*





Transformative Teaching • Collaborative Partnerships • Purposeful Research

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 the fiscal year comes to a close, the pandemic caused by the corona virus (COVID-19) has begun to recede due to the availability of a vaccine. Prior to the vaccine roll out at the beginning of the calendar year,

AILDI and the University of Arizona continued to offer remote programming. AILDI staff and instructors responded by offering the first entirely remote summer session. Lessons learned from technology will continue to influence AILDI programming even after the pandemic.

Summer Institute-Summer 2020
July 6-30, 2020, 22 participants, representing 14 Tribal Nations
Theme: Telling Our Language Journey Stories: Documenting the Language Work We Do

Curriculum and Faculty Linguistics for Native American Communities
Adrienne Tsikewa, (Zuni Pueblo) Ph.D. student in Linguistics at the University of California, Santa Barbara and Candace Kaleimamoowahinekapu Galla (Kanaka Hawai'i) Ph.D., Associate Professor at the University of British Columbia in the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies (Faculty of Arts)

and the Department of Language and Literacy Education (Faculty of Education).

Master Apprentice Immersion Methods
Stan Rodriguez (Kumeyaay) Ed.D.

Writing About Our Language Work
Ofelia Zepeda (Tohono O'odham) Ph.D., Regents Professor, Dept. of Linguistics, The University of Arizona and AILDI Director

De-Mystifying Documentation
Adrienne Tsikewa, (Zuni Pueblo) Ph.D. student in Linguistics at the University of California, Santa Barbara

Embodying Our Indigenous Languages Through Dance, Song, and Chant
Candace Kaleimamoowahinekapu Galla (Kanaka Hawai'i) Ph.D., is an Associate Professor at the University of British Columbia in the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies (Faculty of Arts) and the Department of Language and Literacy Education (Faculty of Education)

Summer Institute-Summer 2021
June 7-July 8, 2021, 36 participants, representing 16 Tribal Nations
Theme: Traditional Innovations: Indigenous Language & Culture
On-line

Curriculum and Faculty Linguistics for Native American Communities
Adrienne Tsikewa, (Zuni Pueblo) Ph.D. student Linguistics at the University of California, Santa Barbara

Evaluating Technology
Amy Fountain, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Career Track, Department of Linguistics, The University of Arizona

Multimedia for Language Work
Mosiah Bluecloud (Kickapoo) Ph.D. student Linguistics, The University of Arizona

Virtual Immersion: Learning & Teaching
Sheilah Nicholas, (Hopi) Ph.D., Professor, Teaching, Learning & Sociocultural Studies Department, The University of Arizona and James McKenzie, (Diné), Ph.D. student, Teaching, Learning & Sociocultural Studies Department, The University of Arizona

Innovation for Traditional Storytelling & Language Education
Christina Newhall, (Unangax/Aleut), Ph.D. student Linguistics, The University of Arizona

Workshop Series
9 workshops, 76 participants, 28 Tribal Nations

Pascua Yaqui Language & Culture department professional development workshops: November 2020-April, 2021
Instructors: Heidi Harley, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Linguistics, The University of Arizona, Sheilah Nicholas, (Hopi) Ph.D., Professor, Teaching, Learning and Sociocultural Studies Department, The University of Arizona; Stacey Oberly, (Southern Ute) Ph.D., Tribal Council Member, Southern Ute Tribe; Joe Dupris (Klamath), Ph.D.; Vanessa Anthony-Stevens, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Social & Cultural Studies, University of Idaho; Stan Rodriguez (Kumeyaay), Ed.D.; Vivian Lopez, (Pascua Yaqui), Ph.D.

Digital Storytelling for Indigenous Languages March 22-26, 2021
Instructors: Wilson Silva, Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics, The University of Arizona and Kaylene Big Knife (Blackfeet), Stone Child College

Master/Apprentice Immersion Method March 23-25, 2021
Instructor: Stan Rodriguez (Kumeyaay), Ed.D., Facilitator: Tatiana Degai (Itelmen) Ph.D.
This workshop targeted Indigenous language teachers in Russia. Sessions were live via zoom. Approximately 29 people registered and represented Indigenous language groups from: Koryak and Itelmen, from Kamchatka

(Pacific coast), Selkup from Tomsk area (Central Siberia), Kumandin from Altai, Udege from Primorski Region (Pacific Coast), Even, Evenk, Yukagir, and Sakha from Yakutia.

Outreach, Special Projects and Presentations

Collaborative Language Planning Project, (CLPP) University of Montana and Chief Dull Knife College. AILDI is a collaborator on this NSF funded grant. (BCS-1800820; BCS 1800617) The multi-year project is creating a network of support for Montana tribal college language instructors and activists. A new NSF grant (BCS-2037470) will strengthen the environment for collaborative research in Indigenous science and language.

International Mother Language Day, February 21. In partnership with the Master of Art in Native American Languages and Linguistics (NAMA) program, an international panel featuring tribal language programs and activists was held as part of the annual Symposium on American Indian Languages (SAIL) conference.

