



# AILDI *News & Updates*

JAN 2021 ISSUE

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

[Our Website](#)

## INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE PROGRAM DIRECTORY *Highlight*

### Comanche Nation

#### Language Department

*Nahmaʔai tanx nɛtɛniwɛnɛ*

'Let's all speak Comanche together!'

The Comanche Nation Language program (Lawton, OK) was founded in October 2019. Currently with a staff of five members, the program offers online Zoom classes for the community and is developing a comprehensive multi-tiered curriculum intended for public school K-12 and college courses. The developing curriculum will also be used for a charter school, expected to open in August for pre-K through 1st grade.



Using a Sac & Fox model, the program works with monolingual speakers when possible in the classes. The pandemic accelerated plans, with classes launched and the curriculum being trialed and tested while it is developed through this online format. Since April 15th, 2020 four (4) language classes a week have been held on Zoom: two (2) beginner classes (kids and family, 1h) and one (1) advanced class (adult, 1.5h) with a monolingual speaker involved. Students are only able to join at the beginning of a new unit to prevent backtracking, and report a surprising lack of attrition in the Zoom classes.

Space is limited (with a waiting list to join pilot program), but this only seems to be driving interest. The community is excited to see the rapid pace of development. Students in classes share experiences via word of mouth about it being fun and learning a lot. Class maximum is capped at twenty (20) so that all students have a chance to practice.

There are six (6) certified 2L speakers: two (2) have conversational proficiency (CP), while

another two speakers have improved substantially in Zoom classes towards CP and teach in public schools. The department's success has reportedly inspired even Kiowa teacher-apprentices to ask to observe classes online, as well as Muskoke asking to speak on Zoom.

The program has a heavy social media presence building community interest with every day phrases, stories, sharing excerpts of an older public television show 'Wordcast'. An updated dictionary is underway with a centralized online digital archive being developed and audio and video entries from monolingual speakers. A storytime series for children has been started with published stories including *Brown, Brown Bear* and *Five Little Monkeys*.

Short-term goals of the program are to finalize the curriculum and prepare expansion of their Zoom classes with more sessions per week. Their long-term goals are completing the dictionary, collecting all possible audio and video of monolingual entries and perhaps a Master-Apprentice program in the future.

*[For links to the Comanche Language Department page, please visit the AILDI Directory here.](#)*

---

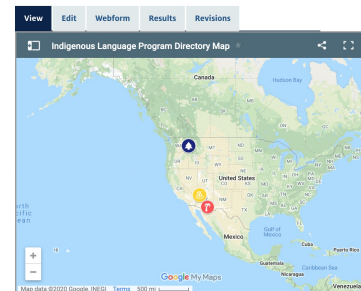
## SUBMIT to AILDI's Indigenous Language Program Directory

*Showcase and share the work you do for your language!*

Our intention is to compile a directory map of Indigenous language programs across the continent increasing support and awareness. Each submission will contain program information to serve as a resource for those interested in learning about language work and further collaboration.

To be featured in our directory, submit [here](#).

Indigenous Language  
Program Directory Map



---

## AILDI Summer 2021

### *Instructor Bio* **Mosiah BlueCloud (Kickapoo)**



Mosiah Bluecloud is an enrolled member of the Kickapoo tribe of Oklahoma, with a Master of Arts degree from the University of Arizona's Department of Linguistics in 2019, specializing in Native American Linguistics, and is currently a second year PhD Linguistics student at the University of Arizona.

Mosiah started out his Language worker journey as an audio and video technician intern working for the Sauk Language Program (SLP) out of Stroud, Oklahoma. He then received 668 hours of training in Immersion Instruction after learning the Sauk language through SLP's modified Master/Apprentice program.

In 2016, Mosiah started the Kickapoo language development program where he created multimedia language learning materials using his skills developed working for 'Tiger Den' and 'TNT' on the local channel of Norman, Oklahoma. Mosiah has won numerous short film awards and a 'Student Emmy' for his documentary over the state of Indigenous languages in Oklahoma titled 'When It's Gone It's Gone'.

## UPCOMING *Workshop*

### *Digital Storytelling*

**Kaylene Bigknife** (Chippewa Cree)  
& **Wilson De Lima Silva**

March 22nd - 23rd, 2021

*Save the date!*

Look out for further information in our upcoming newsletters for details on this upcoming workshop!



**Kaylene J. Bigknife** is from the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy Reservation located in north-central Montana. She is a graphic designer and a digital illustrator with a love for comic art and children storybooks.

Bigknife's educational background includes a Bachelor's degree in Native American Studies from the University of Montana – Missoula and a Master's degree in Native American Languages and Linguistics from the University of Arizona.

Bigknife has since returned home in order to assist with her tribe's Cree and Ojibwe language preservation and revitalization efforts. She currently serves as Stone Child College's Language and Archival Specialist.

## UPCOMING *Workshops, Events, & Institutes*

### **AILDI SUMMER ONLINE 2021**

June 7th - 30th, 2021

*Save the date!*

Look out for further bios in upcoming newsletters including info on the theme, instructor, and course descriptions!

*AILDI is committed to continuing to safeguard individual and community health. The session for Summer Institute will be held via on-line synchronous and asynchronous flex-modalities for Summer 2021.*





### **NAMA-AILDI Tutorial Videos** *Using Custom Keyboards on Mac OSX*

University of Arizona's Native American Languages and Linguistics Master of Arts (NAMA) students in collaboration with AILDI have produced a series of video tutorials. We hope that these will serve as valuable resources for learners, teachers, and communities as reference and a source of inspiration.

This month's featured tutorial explains how to safely modify the English keyboard to add additional symbols, characters, or diacritics to the keyboard's accent menu in Mac OS X 10.12 Sierra or later.



*Click to to watch!*

**For more AILDI videos like this, visit  
the [AILDI YouTube channel here!](#)**

---

## **GIVE YOUR *Input!***

---

# GLOBAL ACTION PLAN GIVE YOUR INPUT

2022-2032 | INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF

## Indigenous Languages



All stakeholders are invited to provide inputs and contributions for the drafting and preparation of the **Global Action Plan for the Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages**.

This online survey is structured around the following sections:

- Contact Details
- Introduction
- Strategic Approach
- Guiding Framework
- Implementation Guidelines
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Regional Consultation
- Financial Sustainability of the International Decade

❖ **Please note not all questions are mandatory. You are invited to include your inputs only in the sections that are relevant for your work and interests.** ❖

**Deadline: Monday, February 1st, 2021**

*Please visit the link here:*  
[v.gd/oE5Rnod](https://v.gd/oE5Rnod)

### 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.

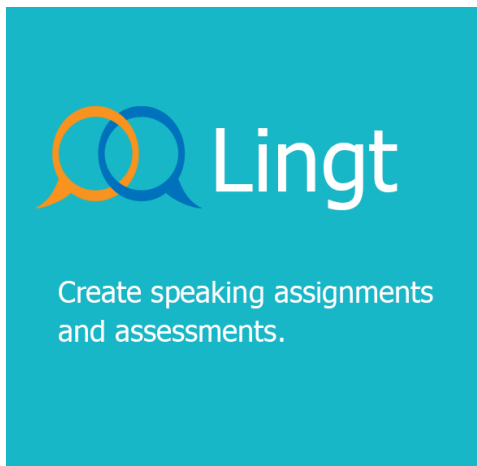
All donations go towards AILDI scholarships and any amount—however big or small—is welcome.

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

[Click here to donate](#)

## RESOURCES *for Teaching Online*

Every newsletter we try to identify at least one new resources you may not know about to help you, your loved ones, and your community continue to use, learn, teach and grow language!



**Lingt** – Allows teachers to create listening and speaking audio assignments and assessments for your students.

A free account allows a class size of up to 20 students at a time to assign up to 10 assignments.

If you or someone you know uses any of the resources previously listed in AILDI newsletters, we would love to receive your feedback, thoughts, and comments at [\*aildi2011@gmail.com\*](mailto: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, and spiritual health and identity.*