



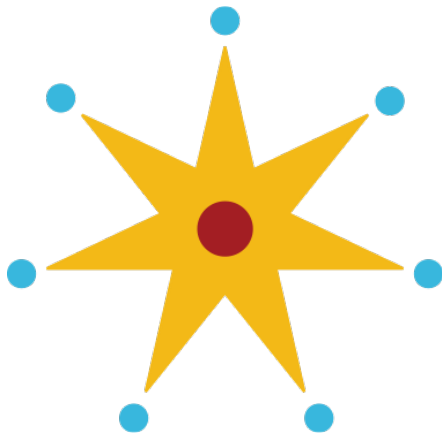
AILDI *News & Updates*

JANUARY 2022 ISSUE

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

[Our Website](#)

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE PROGRAM DIRECTORY *Highlight*



Shawnee Tribal logo
Credit: <https://www.shawnee-nsn.gov/>

Shawnee Language Immersion Program

The Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma is an Eastern Woodlands tribe who were forced West, and eventually settled in Oklahoma.

In 2020, the Shawnee Language Immersion Program was founded in Miami, Oklahoma. The program was founded after the declaration of the Shawnee language being in critical danger due to having only 10 known native speakers remaining.

The Shawnee Tribe officially declared the years 2021-2030 as the Decade of the Shawnee Language and pledged tribal resource flow toward a comprehensive plan to create fluent speakers and deploying language curriculum to all Shawnee people. With the emergency COVID-19 declaration shortly after, the language department implemented new teaching techniques and technologies to ensure that tribal citizens could learn their ancestral language. The goal is to bring back fluency in the younger generations so that the language can continue to be passed down.

One of the many struggles of implementing the language program goals was the wide-

spread nature of the Shawnee peoples. Prior to the implementation of virtual learning, it was difficult to reach more people. Developing a consistent curriculum was also a challenge as well, until last year.

Some short term goals of the program are (i) training Community Language Preservationists (CLPs) to teach Level 1 and Level 2 of the curriculum starting in January 2022, (ii) gaining a deeper understanding of Shawnee grammar so CLPs can use the language with more confidence and have the tools to answer questions from students, and (iii) working towards higher levels of proficiency in the language.

Some long term goals of the program are (i) adding another level to the curriculum annually, to include an immersion Level by 2023, (ii) increasing the number of CLPs from 8 to 16, (iii) teaching over 100 community members a year, increasing the capacity with each level, and (iv) establishing a charter school or daycare that would allow children to be immersed in the language.

Currently, the program offers virtual language classes on Zoom every week, with the addition of two more language learning levels in 2022. There are multiple language classes and teachers to aid the increase of community members who can participate. The implementation of a Shawnee language website known as SLIPStream, is a resource for community members who are unable to attend live classes or who want more practice in the language. Traditional Shawnee stories and Looney Tunes episodes are being recorded in Shawnee by native speakers. A database of Shawnee is being populated, as well as an online Shawnee dictionary, both housed by the Indigenous Languages Digital Archive (ILDA). Part of this project is a yearly summer internship program for college student Shawnees, named the "Sherman Tiger Language Internship" after a native speaker who was lost due to COVID-19.

After decades of struggling to find ways to bring back community language fluency, 2021 shows an inspiring amount of progress. Community members continue to express interest in language classes and have improved in fluency more this past year than ever before. The tribal government is naming departments in Shawnee, and encouraging staff to learn the language.

UPCOMING *Institute*

AILDI Summer Institute

JUNE 6TH – JULY 7TH, 2022

Courses

Max Mule

LING 427/LING 527

Linguistics for
Native American
Communities



Sheilah Nicholas

TLS 410/TLS 510

Reclaiming Our
Indigenous
Superpowers:
Reinstituting the
Original Vision
through
Unapologetic Action
in Our Language Work



**Vanessa Anthony-
Stevens**

TLS 495/TLS 595

&

TLS 402/TLS 502

Centering
Indigenous Language
& Culture Education
in Times of Rapid
Change



Virtual Immersion: Language Cultivation
in Virtual Spaces

Theme

Centering Our Indigenous Language Learners



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.

IMLD: *International Mother Language Day*

February 21, 2022

International Mother Language Day is observed every year to promote linguistic diversity, cultural diversity, and multilingualism.

International Mother Language Day recognizes the importance of languages, multilingualism, and the advancement of inclusion.

UNESCO is calling on policymakers, educators and teachers, parents, and families to increase their efforts to commit to multilingual education, educational inclusion, and the advancement of

SAIL SYMPOSIUM ON AMERICAN INDIAN LANGUAGES

APRIL 15

PLENARY IN CELEBRATION OF IDIL 2022-2032

2022-2032 | INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF Indigenous Languages

THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES (2022-2032):
A decade of action for Indigenous languages from grassroots to national and international levels

DR. OFELIA ZEPEDA
Regent's Professor, University of Arizona
Member of the U.S. National Organizing Committee for the United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Languages

sites.google.com/view/sail2022/home

NAMA THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES Linguistics AILDI THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

on April 15th. Visit the official SAIL site for more information:
sites.google.com/view/sail2022/home

LANGUAGE *Directory*

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

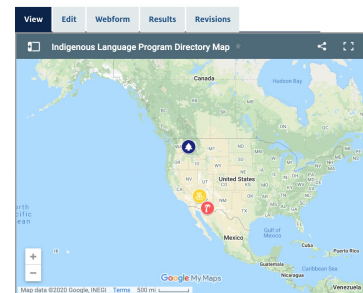
Our intention is to compile a directory map of Indigenous language departments, programs, classes, and efforts across the continent increasing support and awareness. Each entry contains information to serve as a resource for those interested in learning about your language work, learning their language,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