



AILDI *Newsletter: Special Edition*

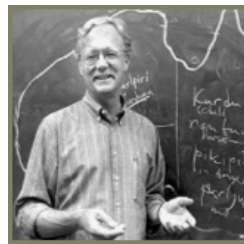
KEN HALE MEMORIAL LECTURE

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

[Our Website](#)

AILDI Announces the 4th Biennial Ken Hale Memorial Lecture

Every two years, AILDI recognizes the work of individuals dedicated to Indigenous language revitalization. The Ken Hale Memorial Lecture was established to honor the legacy of noted linguist Ken Hale, whose lifework was dedicated to documenting and revitalizing endangered languages. He also served as a mentor to tribal linguists, inspiring many to enter the field of linguistics.



Pictured: Ken Hale

It is with great pride and respect that AILDI awards the Ken Hale Memorial Lecture distinction to one of AILDI's most beloved alumna, Dr. Virginia Beavert.

Pictured:
Virginia Beavert



Virginia Beavert, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday, has been honored many, many times for her efforts to breathe life into the Native languages of the northwest. She attended AILDI for several consecutive summers in the 90s and earned her master's degree in bilingual and bicultural education from the University of Arizona.

She went on to earn a doctorate in linguistics from the University of Oregon in 2012 and was instrumental in establishing the Northwest Indigenous Language Institute. Dr. Beavert also established the Sahaptin/Ichishkiin language program at the University of Oregon and continues to advise and teach classes on language and culture. She has served widely as a leader for her Tribe and throughout Indian education, being the first woman elected as an officer of the Yakama Nation General Council Executive Board. Virginia is the co-author of the Yakima Sahaptin Dictionary with Dr. Sharon Hargus of the University of Washington, and on a grammar of Sahaptin with Joana Jansen of the University of Oregon. Her most recent book is *Wántwint Inmí Tiináwit: A Reflection of What I Have Learned*, published by the University of Washington Press. A World War II veteran, she has been honored by the Yakama Nation for her wartime effort of serving in the Army Air Forces. She was the 2007 recipient of the Ken Hale Prize, awarded by the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, and in 2008, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the University of Oregon for her significant contribution to the cultural development of Oregon and society as a whole. In 2019, the Museum at Warm Springs presented Dr. Beavert with its prestigious Twanat Award.

Similar to Ken Hale, Virginia Beavert also has inspired many Native students to study linguistics.



Pictured: Ken Hale Memorial plaque, commissioned for Virginia Beavert. Note the bull-rider in the bottom right-hand corner as a tribute to Ken Hale's time as a bull rider in the rodeo.

Due to the COVID pandemic and in deference to Dr. Beavert's health and safety, the lecture typically given by award recipients will not be held this year. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Virginia Beavert on her remarkable and inspirational work.



Pictured: Virginia Beavert on her 100th birthday, receiving the Ken Hale Memorial plaque.

[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.