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.

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Linguistics Department
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Graduate College

Critical Training
Purposeful Research
Transformative Teaching
Collaborative Partnerships
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 to create and develop new strategies that benefit the next generations. This is accomplished by engaging educators, schools, Indigenous communities and policy makers nationally and internationally to create and develop new strategies that benefit the next generations.

The first summer session was held at the Gila River Indian Community. The on-site course catered to local language and culture teachers. June 4-29, 2018, 31 participants, representing 10 Tribal Nations. Theme: Indigenous Storytelling, Pop Culture & New Media.

Workshop Series
5 workshops, 89 participants: representing 14 Tribal Nations: Master/Apprentice, Huuhugam Heritage Center, Gila River Indian Community, Chandler, AZ, September 17 – 21, 2017, Instructor: Stan Rodriguez (Kumeyaay), Kumeyaay Culture Advocate & Language Instructor.

Teaching Responsibly; Teaching with Responsibility – Language Planning for Integrating Indigenous Languages into the Formal Teaching Setting.
Sheilah Nicholas, (Hopi) Ph.D., Associate Professor, Teaching, Learning and Sociocultural Studies Department, The University of Arizona. Language, Access & Red Power, Stacey Oberly, (Southern Ute) Ph.D., Coordinator of Ute Language and Culture, Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy, Southern Ute Tribe.

Outreach and Presentations

AILDI partnered with the Native American Linguistics graduate program to offer campus wide signage, an information booth, and panel presentations at The University of Arizona.
AILDI joined Indigenous educators and advocates at the Indigenous Education meeting held on March 28, 2018 and hosted by the College of Education at The University of Arizona. Topics included: educational sovereignty, creating relationships with Tribal Nations, sustaining language and culture.

25th Annual Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Symposium: KANNAITSI-TAPI MATAROKORSISITSI’ TSI PONAW OOTSTESTPOH SOWA. ‘All true people to gain a renewed interest in their language’, June 7-9, 2018, Lethbridge, Canada.

Arizona Language Vitality Special Project
The National Science Foundation, Documenting Endangered Languages Program awarded a grant, BSC #1601738, toAILDI 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 their own 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 have been participating in the project and provided an update on their survey work at a special meeting held at the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community on March 23, 2018.

Accomplishments
AILDI was pleased to offer a second summer session this year that was held at the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC). More GRIC community members were able to take the course because it was held locally and other tribal members also attended due to the more central location of the course. AILDI looks forward to offering more off-site summer sessions courses in the future.