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
Christy Bustillo  
Administrative Assistant
Amanda Le Clair-Diaz  
Graduate Associate
Max Mule  
Student Worker

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
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.

International Year of Indigenous Languages 2019
Indigenous languages matter for social, economic, and political development, peaceful coexistence and reconciliation in our societies.

Outreach and Presentations
Am o’i-ñegamhut ñ-ñiyik deyaam deyaam deyaam Am o’i-ñegamhut ñ-ñiyik deyaam deyaam deyaam

World Languages 2019
International Year of Indigenous Languages

AILDI as well as past instructors was held as part of the summer session. A celebratory dinner held in conjunction with the symposium featured a poetry reading by O’odham poets.

Annual Summer Institute
21 participants representing 11 Tribal Nations.

Curriculum and Faculty
Land & Place: The Wellspring for Immersion Methods & Teachers Learning to Live in “Good Relations”, Indigenous Language in the Classroom

Workshop Series
5 workshops, 57 participants representing 12 Tribal Nations Building Language Through Indigenous Pop Culture, July 16-18, 2018. Instructor: Lee Francis IV (Laguna) Ph.D., CEO & Founder, Native Realities Re-connecting the Generations Through Language Reclamation, Kaw Nation, Kaw City, OK, August 23-24, 2018. Instructor: Sheilah Nicholas, (Hopi) Ph.D. Associate Professor, Teaching, Learning and Sociocultural Studies Department, The University of Arizona Klamath Language II maqlaqsyalank naat hemyeega ‘we are beginning to speak‘ maqlaqsyal (Klamath-Mo role), Chiloquin, OR, December 28-30, 2018 March 15-17, 2019. Instructor: Joe Dupris (Klamath), Ph.D. Student, Linguistics & Anthropology Department, The University of Arizona Developing an Orthography, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM, June 10-14, 2019. Instructor: Tyler Peterson, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Department of English (Linguistics), Arizona State University

Director, American Indian Studies, University of Idaho, Guest Lecturer, Vanessa Anthony-Stevens, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Department of Curriculum & Instruction, University of Idaho

PD-261031-18) funds the project.

Yet many of them are in danger of disappearing. It is for this reason that the United Nations declared 2019 The Year of International Indigenous Languages (ITYIL) in order to encourage urgent action to preserve, revitalize and promote them. AILDI ushered in the year by having an informational booth on the UA campus mall and by placing building signs in local tribal languages throughout the campus. AILDI also held a special panel featuring Mayan scholars in conjunction with the Maya Maiz Roots of Raza Studies conference in April. Supported in part by the College of Education, AILDI produced a special ITYIL banner that is posted at all our events throughout the year.

AILDI 40th Year Anniversary 2019 also marked the 40th year anniversary of AILDI providing language education to Indigenous language teachers, learners, and advocates. A conference held in conjunction with the Symposium for American Indian Languages (SAIL) included one day devoted to AILDI topics. A symposium that featured the founders of AILDI as well as past instructors was held as part of the summer session. A celebratory dinner held in conjunction with the symposium featured a poetry reading by O’odham poets.

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