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
Belinda Vasquez
Administrative Assistant
Christian DiRado-Owens
Graduate Associate

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 (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. 2020 will be remembered as the year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The entire world had to adjust to the impact that the novel coronavirus has caused to the structure of economies, education, health systems and social mores. We collectively mourn those lives that have been lost and those that continue to struggle with long-term recovery. When the University of Arizona cancelled all in-person classes we were forced to cancel workshops and events as well. This annual report will include information on those events held prior to the pandemic and those that were cancelled. AILDI looks forward to resuming in-person classes and workshops when it is safe to resume.

AILDI and CoLang June 2020

University of Montana, Missoula, MT – cancelled; re-scheduled for June 2022

CoLang is an international institute for language activists, teachers, linguists and students from language communities and academia to obtain hands-on skills in language documentation and revitalization. CoLang 2020 was focusing on Indigenous languages and communities and AILDI had been assisting with planning for the program by sponsoring sessions and instructors. The annual AILDI summer session, typically held in June was re-scheduled for July to accommodate the CoLang program. The AILDI session in July will be in next year’s annual report.

Workshop Series

5 workshops, 85 participants, 11 Tribal Nations

Re-Membering Ourselves to Land & Place – Restoring Good Relations, Gila River Indian Community Education Department, July 8 – 11, 2019

Instructor: Sheliah Nicholas, (Hopi) Ph.D., Professor, Teaching, Learning and Sociocultural Studies Department, The University of Arizona

Grant Writing Workshop for National Science Foundation Grants, College of Education, The University of Arizona, July 14-16, 2019

Instructor: Colleen Fitzgerald, Ph.D., Former Program Director, Documenting Endangered Languages National Science Foundation

Klamath Language II maqlaygqalank naat kemeqawa, we are beginning to speak‘ maqlaygqalank (Klamath-Modoq), Chiloquin, OR, August 16-19, 2019

Instructor: Joe Dupris (Klamath), Ph.D. Student, Linguistics & Anthropology Department, The University of Arizona

pu teh kwa ieqwa qwe' el Honor Your Language. Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Worley, ID, September 16-19, 2019

Instructors: Amy V. Fountain, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Career Track, Department of Linguistics, The University of Arizona; Sheliah Nicholas, (Hopi) Ph.D., Professor, Teaching, Learning and Sociocultural Studies Department, The University of Arizona; Stacey Oberly, (Southern Ute) Ph.D., Coordinator of Ute Language and Culture, Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy, Southern Ute Tribe; Tyler Peterson, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Department of English (Linguistics), Arizona State University; Audia Vincent, (Coeur d'Alene) Language Program Manager, Coeur d' Alene Tribe

The workshops were part of the Coeur d’Alene Online Language Resource Center (COLRC) project, Coeur d’Alene Tribal Language Program, The University of Arizona Department of Linguistics, Indiana

University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne, funded by The National Endowment for the Humanities under the Documenting Endangered Languages program (Award PD-261031-18).

Re-surfacing Our Ancestral Map (Immersion), Santa Ana Pueblo Language Department, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM, September 26–27, 2019.

Instructor: Sheliah Nicholas, (Hopi) Ph.D., Professor, Teaching, Learning and Sociocultural Studies Department, The University of Arizona

Miromaa, Tohono O’odham Community College, Tohono O’odham Nation, April 15–16, 2020 – cancelled

Instructor: Daryn McKenny, Miromaa Aboriginal Language and Technology Centre, New South Wales, Australia

Re-surfacing Our Ancestral Map (Immersion), Santa Ana Pueblo Language Department, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM, September 26–27, 2019.

Instructor: Sheliah Nicholas, (Hopi) Ph.D., Professor, Teaching, Learning and Sociocultural Studies Department, The University of Arizona

Mother Language Day February 21, 2020. AILDI Director, Ofelia Zepeda held a “read aloud” of Tohono O’odham children’s books in the WOW special collection at the College of Education, The University of Arizona.

International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL) panel presentation. To close out IYIL, AILDI hosted a panel of tribal language program representatives from the Gila River Indian Community, Pascua Yaqui Tribe and San Carlos Apache Tribe.

Outreach, Special Projects and Presentations

Collaborative Language Planning Project. (CLPP) University of Montana and Chief Dull Knife College. AILDI is a collaborator on this NSF funded grant. (BCS- 1800820; BCS 1800671). The multi-year project is creating a network of support for Montana tribal college language instructors and activists.

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.