



THE AMERICAN INDIAN LANGUAGE POLICY RESEARCH
AND TEACHER TRAINING CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



Native American Language Teachers Institute

Mission

The Center aims to serve as a local and national center of collaborative research that examines major policy issues affecting the survival and maintenance of American Indian languages. Developing and providing Native language teacher training programs and technical assistance support for American Indian tribes engaged in language maintenance and preservation initiatives is a key aspect of the Center's outreach and service. The Center also seeks to build an international dialogue about language issues that extends to other Indigenous languages of the Americas through international symposia and public forums.

Background

The Center was established in 2008 through the efforts of Dr. Christine Sims, Assistant Professor in the Department of Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies (LLSS) in the University of New Mexico's College of Education and is supported with a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. At both national and local levels, Dr. Sims has advocated for training and helping prepare Native speakers to plan and implement language initiatives that will support the maintenance and revitalization of native languages. Through the Center's efforts, and with supporting help from the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department and the New Mexico Public Education Department, training activities for speakers of Native languages take place year round through workshops, university courses, an annual Native American Language Teachers' institute, language symposia and conferences. The Center continues to build and expand these efforts by bringing together the academic resources of the University's College of Education and practitioners in the field of Native language teaching, tribal government leaders and members of indigenous language communities.



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Department of Language, Literacy and Sociocultural Studies
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Language Center Program Highlights and Coming Events

Each summer, the *Native American Language Teachers' Institute (NALTI)* is held on the campus of the University of New Mexico offering graduate and undergraduate course credit. The week-long Institute usually takes place in early June and is attended by speakers representing various Native American languages. Speakers of these languages involved in or preparing to teach their native language have the opportunity to work alongside veteran language teachers learning about key principles of language learning, language immersion approaches for teaching Native languages, planning language programs and other relevant topics that support language maintenance and revitalization efforts. NALTI 2011 will take place, June 6-11, 2011. Contact the Center for future Institutes.

For the past three years, the Center has hosted an *International Indigenous Language Policy Research Conference* at the University of New Mexico. These events focused on the impact of national and local policies on the survival of indigenous languages throughout the Americas. Participants have included Indigenous scholars from the United States and the countries of Mexico, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia and Canada. The Center staff is completing work on establishing a website and a URL link allowing public access to presented papers and proceedings including the proceedings from the May 2-3, 2011 Symposium.

Workshops and special one-day Institutes are periodically offered throughout the year on special topics relevant to language immersion programs, language planning and issues of language loss, maintenance and revitalization. These are usually announced through our Center mailing lists that we maintain and update as individuals request to be added to our mailing list. These have included:

- A Fall 2010 Pre-Conference Institute on *Early Childhood and Native Language Issues* held November 17, 2010, at the Convention Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- A one-day workshop on *Language Program Planning* held on the UNM campus, December 10, 2010.
- An online course (LLSS 460/560) *Language and Education in Southwest Native American Communities* taught in Spring 2011 by Dr. Sims for undergraduate and graduate credit to be offered again in Fall, 2011.
- A Saturday class (LLSS 449) *Teaching the Native Language* was taught by Dr. Sims for undergraduate credit during Spring, 2011.
- An Early Childhood Heritage Language Summit held April 1, 2011 in Espanola, New Mexico.

Outreach service to Indigenous communities. The Center receives at various times, technical assistance and training requests in a wide variety of areas relative to language planning initiatives in tribal communities, local schools where Native languages are being taught, community based language programs as well as tribal language and education committees. Examples of outreach assistance include: language vitality survey development, language program needs assessments, language program planning, instructional planning, training internships for native language instructors, language curriculum development, assistance with community language forums, and other issues relative to language teaching in communities and school settings. Activities are usually conducted on-site in collaboration with local communities or programs as well as on the UNM campus.

For Information contact the Language Center Staff located in Hokona Hall, 1st Floor, University of New Mexico Campus, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131.

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