



New Mexico Indian Affairs Committee  
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Pueblo of Sandia, New Mexico

### **ASSISTING NATIVE LANGUAGE SURVIVAL PROGRAMS**

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The New Mexico Indian Affairs Department has funded the Tribal Language Certification Project each year since 2008 when the American Indian Language Policy Research and Teacher Training Center was first established. Prior to this date, NMIAD provided funding through the Institute for American Indian Education in the UNM College of Education in 2005, 2006 and 2007. The purpose of the Tribal Language Certification Project is to support Native speakers who are preparing to teach language in community-based or public school settings. The Project also contributes to the preparation of Native speakers who wish to obtain a NM Alternative Certificate for teaching Native language in NM public schools. The Center represents the only New Mexico IHE providing direct training assistance to New Mexico Native language survival initiatives and Native language teachers. This report summarizes information and examples of the work the Center has engaged in during the period 2008-2011. The Performance Measures identified in the Tribal Language Certification Project typically address the following five broad areas:

Performance Area 1: Conducting training workshops during the course of each project year: onsite, at UNM or during statewide bilingual conferences.

Performance Area 2: Maintaining a current database of conference and workshop participants, language program directors, Native language teachers for use in advertising workshops, summer institutes and other activities sponsored by the Center.

Performance Area 3: Planning training curriculum and logistics for summer Native American Language Teachers' Institutes, training workshops and special courses.

Performance Area 4: Providing technical assistance for language initiatives in communities and schools upon request from tribes, tribal language programs, and/or schools.

Performance Area 5: Collection of evaluation survey data for each Summer Native American Language Teachers' Institute and workshops to determine future training needs.

### **EXAMPLES OF TRIBAL LANGUAGE EFFORTS IN NEW MEXICO**

- ❖ Language Immersion Summer Programs for youth in tribal communities
- ❖ Language Immersion Classes in BIE and NM public schools sanctioned by tribes
- ❖ Culture and Language programs for youth (year round and summer) in tribal communities
- ❖ Adult language and culture classes in tribal communities
- ❖ Language Immersion "Nests" for toddlers
- ❖ Early Childhood Language Projects



❖ Language Documentation Projects

**Examples of Funding sources for Tribal Language Initiatives:** (State) NM PED Indian Education Language Grants; (Federal) Administration for Native Americans (ANA) grants, NM PED State Bilingual programs; National Science Foundation grants; private foundation grants; and Tribal funds.

**Examples of Tribes with Language Certification Process and MOUs with NM PED:** Acoma, Cochiti, Santa Ana, Santo Domingo, Santa Clara, Zuni, Navajo, Mescalero Apache, Jicarilla Apache. In process of development: Taos and Zia Pueblos.

**EXAMPLES OF WORKSHOPS PROVIDED BY THE CENTER 2008-2011**

- ❖ **Keres Language Assessment Workshop** Bernalillo Public Schools. June 15, 2011
- ❖ **Training Workshop on “Language teaching and planning for preschool children.”** Jemez Early Childhood Head Start Teachers. March 3-4, 2010.
- ❖ **Tribal Language Program Planning Workshop for Tribal Language Leaders, Speakers and Teachers.** Laguna, Santa Ana, Navajo, Taos, and Jemez Pueblo participants. April 10, 2010.
- ❖ **Workshop on “Early Childhood Mescalero Apache Language Nest Planning”** including an on-site visit to the Cochiti Pueblo Language Nest and the UNM Family Development Program December 15-16, 2009. Mescalero Apache tribal members.
- ❖ **Workshop on “Community wide language planning and collaboration for Mescalero Apache language initiatives”** in the local BIE school, community, and preschool language immersion “nest”. November 4 -5, 2009. Mescalero Apache Tribal Language Committee, Apache language teachers, Mescalero School Board members and Mescalero Tribal Council.
- ❖ **Workshop “Native American Language Initiatives: Considerations for Planning, Implementation and Evaluation”** conducted during the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education Conference in Albuquerque, NM. September 24-26, 2009.
- ❖ **Language Teaching Workshop** for Santa Clara Pueblo elders and speakers of Tewa. Santa Clara Pueblo, NM. May 20, 2009.
- ❖ **Native Language Teaching Workshop** for Navajo Language teachers. Central Consolidated Schools, Shiprock, NM, February 27, 2009.
- ❖ **Preparing Language Grant Proposal Workshop**, January, 2009: San Felipe, Mescalero Apache, Cochiti, Zia, Santa Ana, Laguna, Isleta, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Cherokee, and the Navajo tribal participants.
- ❖ **Language Program Planning Workshop**, November, 2008: Isleta, Santa Ana, Santo Domingo, and Sandia Pueblo participants.



### EXAMPLES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE CENTER

- ❖ Technical Assistance in Language Immersion and Curricular Planning: February, 2009. Jemez Early Childhood Program Director and Jemez Staff.
- ❖ Technical Assistance Start-up Planning for Diné Language Immersion Program, September, 2009. Central Consolidated School District's Diné Language Committee members.
- ❖ Technical Assistance in resolving conflicts in lack of tribal consultation between Grants Cibola County School District's Language Proposal Submission and Keres Language classes at Laguna-Acoma H.S. September - October, 2009. Acoma Language Retention Program Director, Acoma Tribal Council Representative, NM PED Indian Education representative, GCCS Indian Education Director and Laguna-Acoma H.S. Principal.
- ❖ Technical Assistance to Santo Domingo Keres Language Committee members, Santa Fe Indian School in preparation for developing a new language program initiative for Santo Domingo middle and high school students. November - December, 2009.
- ❖ Technical Assistance to Pojoaque Pueblo reviewing initial ANA Language Program Grant Proposal Draft. October, 2008.

### EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION WITH NEW MEXICO TRIBES AND STATE AGENCIES

- ❖ ***1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tiwa Language Summits, Isleta Pueblo***, 2009 and 2010. Collaboration with the Pueblo of Isleta.
- ❖ ***Native Language Summit and Heritage Language Early Childhood Summit, Espanola, NM***, March 31-April 1, 2011. Collaboration with NM PED Indian Education.
- ❖ ***All Indian Pueblo Council Strong Starts for Pueblo Indian Children Initiative***, 2010-2011. Community forums and civic action for education and language issues.
- ❖ ***Tribal Leaders' Language Summit, Isleta Pueblo***, Scheduled for October 10, 2011. Collaboration with NM PED Indian Education and NM tribal language programs.

### EXAMPLES OF SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE INSTITUTES CONVENED BY THE CENTER

- ❖ **Open Forum on NM Native Language Certification Issues**. June 11, 2011. University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM.
- ❖ **Native American Pre-Conference Language Institute: Native Language Issues in Early Childhood Education**. November 17, 2010. Santa Fe, NM.
- ❖ **Pre-Conference Institute for Native American Language Teachers**, November 18, 2009.



Organized during the New Mexico Dual Language Conference in Albuquerque. Attended by over 50 Native language teachers, program directors and tribal members.

- ❖ **Early Childhood Language Summit**, September 30, 2009. Organized and conducted at the University of New Mexico. Focus: to inform NM Native EC educators about proposed guidelines and benchmarks for Early Childhood Education in New Mexico and the implications for Native Language Revitalization initiatives in tribal communities.
- ❖ **Conference on Native Language Issues in Early Childhood Education**. Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute. March 20-21, 2009.
- ❖ **2009, 2010 and 2011 International Indigenous Language Policy Research Conferences**. University of New Mexico. Open to Tribal Language Program teachers, program directors, tribal community people and general public.
- ❖ **2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 Summer Native American Language Teachers' Institutes (NALTI)**. University of New Mexico campus. (See Tables for Tribal Participant Information)

#### **EXAMPLES OF ADVOCACY AREAS: NATIVE LANGUAGE POLICY ISSUES IN NEW MEXICO**

**February, 2009. Proposed Revision of Formula Funding for NM Public Schools**, Round Table Session on New Mexico Funding Formula Issues in Education. Convened by the Ben Lujan Policy Center. **Issue:** Proposed revisions and their impact on funding of state bilingual programs including Heritage language programs and the need to protect the interests of tribal programs supported by state bilingual funds. **Outcome:** the 2009 Legislative Bill containing final proposed revisions did not survive.

**November, 2009. Task Force on Native Education in NM and the Governor's Summit on Native American Education** at Isleta Pueblo. Organized by NM IAD Secretary Alvin Warren and NM PED Secretary Veronica Garcia. Center participation in development of final Task Force recommendations including Native Language Maintenance issues.

**2009 - 2011. NM CYFD development of Pre-K standards and benchmarks for toddlers and infants.** **Issue:** Relevancy and impact of state standards that fail to address Native language development issues for tribes engaged in efforts to create EC programs with an emphasis on Native language immersion environments for toddlers and infants.

#### **SUSTAINING THE CENTER'S WORK**

- ❖ New Mexico House and Senate passage of **HJM 031** and **SJM 24** calling for fulfillment of statutory obligations regarding 2003 Indian Education Act; referencing support for TA and Training resources provided by the Center. January, 2011 NM Legislative Session.
- ❖ U.S. Department of Education meeting in Washington, DC, for grantees including the Center, February, 2010. Future prospects for continued funding and program sustainability.

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- ❖ Continued advocacy for funding the Center. Meeting with U.S. Senator Bingaman's Field Representative, Angelo Gonzalez at UNM. September, 2009.
  - ❖ Initial Strategic Planning with Advisory Council for the American Indian Language Center regarding future plans for sustainability of the Center's work. November-December, 2009. Advisory group includes: Dr. Rebecca Blum Martinez and Dr. Tiffany Lee from UNM; Kirby Gchachu (Zuni) SIPI; Tina Deschennie (Diné), Shiprock, NM; Gilbert Sanchez (Laguna), Albuquerque Community Foundation; and Kevin Shendo, Pueblo of Jemez Education Department.

**Immediate Center Goals:**

1. Seek NMIAD support for continuation of Native language training services the American Indian Language Policy Research and Teacher Training Center provides to New Mexico tribes and tribal language programs through a new joint MOA between the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, the NM PED Indian Education Bureau and the UNM College of Education. An original 2005 MOA included the Institute for American Indian Education in the NM College of Education but not the Center, as this was not established until 2008. This MOA expired in June, 2011.
2. Develop a certificated program of training for Native Speakers teaching language in the UNM College of Education; With input from tribes and tribal language programs, determining what courses would constitute an appropriate training program for native speakers.
3. Seek funding sources supporting Native internships that will help develop internal tribal leadership and management of language programs in communities.
4. Develop and maintain a website to facilitate local, state, and national, dialogue about Native language issues; creating an interactive site for sharing language teaching information among Native speakers; creating webinars online on topics related to Native language teaching and other issues.
5. Support the development of a local statewide organization of Native language teachers that will advocate for and support Native language efforts and issues in New Mexico.
6. Pursue federal and private foundation grant sources to support the work of the Center.