

SPONSORSHIP & EVENT SUMMARY



12th Annual Indigenous Language Institute Symposium



October 23- 25, 2024

Sandia Resort & Casino | Albuquerque, NM

*Connecting All Ages to Develop
Language Use in Daily Life*

Thank You to Our Sponsors

We'd like to express a heartfelt thank you to our Sponsors for their invaluable contributions to the success of the 12th Annual Indigenous Language Institute Symposium (ILIS). Through your support, we were able to provide Native educators, elders, community members, and advocates from across the United States. With the theme "*Connecting All Ages to Develop Language Use in Daily Life*," the symposium focused on strategies for integrating Indigenous languages into daily life across generations.

Your support helped us empower a new generation of Indigenous language leaders poised to make a lasting impact in their communities. Together, we provided enriching workshops, cultural performances, and keynote sessions that equipped attendees with effective tools to advance language revitalization efforts nationwide.

Event Overview & Summary

The Symposium was a energetic gathering filled with inspiring keynote speeches, hands-on workshops, presentations, and meaningful connections across generations.

Key Highlights Include:

- **Inspiring Opening Session & Keynote:**

Welcome song from the Western Marvicks Drum Group, Welcome remarks & Blessing Dr. Richard Littlebear- ILI Board President and MICA Group President Della Warrior. Language Advocate, James Vukelich

from the Indigenous language community opened the Symposium with a powerful message, setting an uplifting and purposeful tone for the symposium.

- **Workshops and Presentations:** A focus on practical strategies, our lineup included over 25 presenters. These sessions covered language work at various levels, providing attendees with tools and insights to incorporate language into everyday life, whether through educational institutions, tribal governance, community centers, or non-profit initiatives.



Key Highlights Include cont'd:

- **Indigenous Language Research Showcase:** We celebrated the next generation of language leaders with an Indigenous Language Research Showcase, where college students from across the country presented their research. This platform allowed attendees to witness the dedication of young language scholars and learn about innovative approaches to language revitalization taking place in Indigenous communities nationwide.



- **Cultural Night Celebration:** A standout of this year's symposium, Cultural Night featured a lineup of Indigenous talent, showcasing dance, storytelling, comedy, heritage, laughter, and language. Hosted by actor Wes Studi, the evening included comedic performances by Ricardo Cate, a hoop dance performance by the Lightning Boy Foundation, and a traditional performance by the Sky City Buffalo Ram Dance Group. These performances not only entertained but also reinforced the cultural significance of language and tradition.



Scope of Language Work Represented

This year's symposium achieved a comprehensive representation of language work across all levels, encompassing contributions from:

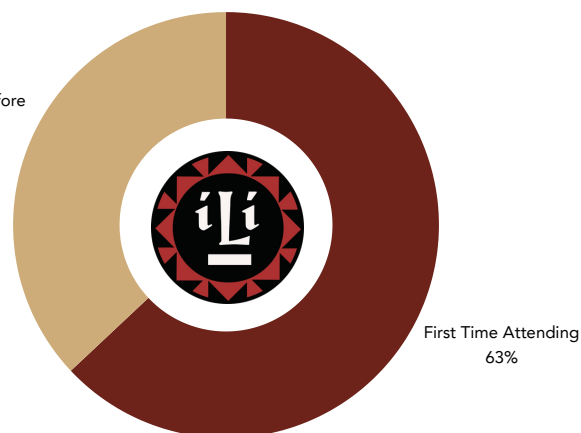
- **Tribal Leaders and Elders:** Sharing their experiences and offering invaluable insights into the preservation of traditional language practices and values.

- **Educational Staff and Higher Education Faculty:** Discussing strategies for integrating Indigenous languages into educational curricula and building sustainable language programs in schools and universities.
- **Community Centers and Outdoor Education Initiatives:** Highlighting programs that bring language learning outside the classroom, into community spaces and the natural world, where language connects deeply with cultural knowledge.
- **Non-Profit Organizations:** Showcasing the efforts of non-profit organizations working tirelessly to support language preservation through resources, programming, and advocacy.
- **Youth Voices and Perspectives:** Young attendees explored ways to engage actively in language revitalization, sharing their aspirations for sustaining language continuity and bridging generational connections. It was inspiring to see over 20 high school students participating in presentations and workshops.



Symposium Outcome by the Numbers

- **Total Attendance:** Record attendance, with 317 attendees at 92% attendance rate to registration. Representing 102 tribes and communities—a remarkable increase of 155 attendees from the 2023 ILIS. This increased prompted a complete redesign of the event layout just three weeks before the Symposium to accommodate the surge in participants.
- **Social Media Reach:** The event achieved over 15,000 impressions across social media platforms, with 316 likes and shares. Since announcing the event in May 2024, our bi-weekly newsletter achieved an impressive engagement rate, with roughly 45% of subscribers opening and engaging with content related to the symposium.
- **Email and Outreach Campaign:** The Executive Director spearheaded a targeted outreach campaign, sending approximately 120 personalized invitations to tribal leaders, educators, community organizations, and networks across the United States, encouraging broad participation and helping us connect with new communities.
- **Engaging New Audiences:** More than 60% of this year’s attendees were first-time participants at ILIS, highlighting the symposium’s expanding reach and appeal to new audiences committed to language revitalization.



First Time Attending ILIS



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- **Post-Event Survey:** A resounding 94% of attendees rated the symposium as "Excellent" or "Very Good." Participants praised the sessions for their practical value, the emphasis on actionable strategies, and the integration of traditional cultural practices throughout the event.

This year's outcomes reflect not only the symposium's growing impact but also its role as a vital space for knowledge-sharing and connection, fostering a stronger, broader community of Indigenous language advocates.

Participant Voices & Feedback

What did you enjoy about this year's Symposium?

"I absolutely loved it! I feel less alone. I feel motivated & inspired!"

- Michelle R. (Alaska Educator)

"It was pretty perfect! Interacting with all the other language workers. Thank you!"

- Laura G. (California Non-Profit)

"Loved it! Learning all new teaching strategies from all Native communities."

- Kendra T. (Michigan Educator)

"Learning the importance of our Native Language"

- Veralyn M. (New Mexico Educator)



"Very powerful. Learned about what's most precious & what is most sacred. Great to see the work in action, and happening now."

- Dawn D. (Minnesota Language Non-Profit)

"I enjoyed the presentations, and listening to people's stories."

- Kenji S. (Alaska High School Student)

"Everything. Very informative. Very heartwarming. Very organized."

- Erlinda C. (New Mexico Educator)

"My first symposium, it was very inspiring & I am excited to bring back the information to my tribe!"

- Darin B. (Tribal Chairman)



Looking Ahead: Opportunities for Continued Impact

We hope to continue working with Sponsors in future initiatives, including upcoming workshops, webinars, and next year's symposium. With your ongoing support, we can continue to make a significant impact in preserving Indigenous languages and cultural knowledge. Focusing on our future generation of language leaders.

Voices in Practice: Language Speaker Series

The Voices in Practice series is a specialized virtual professional development program tailored to Indigenous Language students, educators and community leaders. This series provides a dedicated space for language practitioners to learn, connect, and collaborate on Indigenous language revitalization efforts. Each session features expert speakers, interactive discussions, and practical workshops designed to provide attendees with tools and strategies to integrate Indigenous languages into everyday contexts and educational settings.

ILI Summer Language Academy for Young Adults

The Indigenous Language Immersion (ILI) Summer Language Academy offers a transformative experience for Indigenous young adults and college students across the nation. Focused on equipping the next generation with essential language immersion skills, this academy combines immersive language learning, cultural connections, and inter-tribal collaboration. Participants will engage in intensive language practice, cultural workshops, and community visits to deepen their understanding of Indigenous heritage and build cross-tribal networks. This academy empowers students to reclaim and preserve their language and cultural identity for future generations.

Regional Language Immersion Workshops

Our Regional Language Immersion Workshops equips educators, students, communities, and families with tools for successful language immersion programs. In 2025, we'll bring practical immersion techniques, curriculum development, community engagement, and assessment strategies to 5 locations across the U.S. This multi-location approach makes it easier and more accessible for communities with limited funding to participate.



Indigenous Language Institute Symposium (ILIS)

Since 2010, ILI has gathered presenters to share research, personal experiences, and success stories that address the challenges faced by language practitioners and community workers. The Symposium provides participants with innovative ideas and practical solutions for advancing language revitalization efforts. **In 2025**, we will return to the Pueblo of Sandia on October 22-24, with the theme "*The Healing Power of Language*," focusing on partnerships with Indigenous organizations that integrate language revitalization into community healing. We aim to address historical and intergenerational trauma in language work and explore ways for strengthening our communities. A new Indigenous Youth Language Symposium will coincide, providing a dedicated space for youth voices and perspectives in language revitalization.



Thank you

Once again, thank you, for supporting the 12th Annual Indigenous Language Institute Symposium. Your commitment to Indigenous language preservation is invaluable, and together, we are making a difference in the lives of countless individuals and communities. We look forward to partnering with you again in our shared mission to keep Indigenous languages alive for future generations.

Warm regards,

Raul Aguilar Jr. (*Gabeyaangabenis*)
Executive Director

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