

Elevating Tribal Languages, Elevating Identity: A Collaborative TIIA-OIE Project, 1-page overview

High Level Project Description:

The *Elevating Tribal Languages, Elevating Identity* project came about as a collaborative effort of NDE subject matter experts who understand the importance of bilingualism and multiculturalism in advancing equitable and just educational opportunities for Nevada's educators and students. Working directly with Tribal communities to elevate the importance and strength of Tribal languages, which are inseparable from Native culture and traditions and essential to Native identity, this initiative is one effort toward language preservation and revitalization, and to create a space for healing historical trauma. The Great Basin Native American language endorsement will be leveraged to deepen educator knowledge and to enrich instructional practices. The project aims to acknowledge and increase the number of Tribal language speakers as subject matter experts, and to increase the number of educators who are Native American. Ultimately, this initiative aims to improve quality in education and academic outcomes for Native American students and eventually to increase the number of Native American students who receive a Seal of Biliteracy. This project represents alignment of the goals and purposes of OIE, TIIA, NDE-STIP, and Federal level initiatives.

Collaboration:

- NDE Office of Inclusive Education: Indian Education
- NDE Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement: Title II, Part A
- The Nevada Indian Commission.

Overarching Goal:

This initiative will serve to revitalize Tribal languages. Tribal language speakers will be recruited, prepared, and trained toward the goal of promoting, enriching, and enhancing activities and strategies to deepen knowledge for American Indian educators, and ultimately advance education for American Indian students.

Three Outcome goals:

1. to increase the number of tribal language speaking experts that meet the NDE licensure/endorsement requirements for teaching a Great Basin Native American language (NAC 391.233)
2. to elevate the importance of Tribal language speakers by increasing the number of individuals qualified to teach a Great Basin Native American language without an endorsement (NRS 391.019, NAC 391.233 (4))
3. to strengthen and increase the number of subject matter experts regarding tribal languages.

Deliverables:

1. Five (5) Tribal Language speakers (non-degree seeking) will attend the American Indian Language Development Institute (AILDI) on-line summer institute in the College of Education at the University of Arizona; completing this Institute will qualify the Tribal Language speakers for the GBNAL endorsement.
2. Five (5) AILDI consultants will facilitate/lead workshops to build capacity, deepen knowledge, and strengthen the instructional practices of indigenous language subject matter experts to improve educator instructional practices through professional learning and resource development.
3. Five (5) education consultants will oversee the Indigenous Language Community of Practice and work to realize the following goals:
 - a. provide support to the Tribal language experts
 - b. strengthen the regional community of Indigenous language workers across the Great Basin Region
 - c. share ideas, resources, and wisdom to enhance teaching strategies and instructional methods in the classroom.

For more information contact the Nevada Department of Education:

Silvana Gorton, [PhD, Title IIA sgorton@doe.nv.gov](mailto:sgorton@doe.nv.gov) or Fredina Drye-Romero, Indian Education, fromero@doe.nv.gov