The American Indian Language Development Institute Thirty Year Tradition of Speaking from Our Heart is a commemorative publication celebrating the many years of commitment by one of the country’s most renowned training institutes for Indigenous language education and revitalization. The AILDPI honors the many educators that have attended the institute whom have taken on the responsibility of preserving, documenting, revitalizing, and maintaining their Indigenous languages. Continue the fight!

The College of Education at the University of Arizona is proud to be home to the American Indian Language Development Institute. For over a quarter of a century, AILDPI has provided leadership for Arizona and the nation on issues that need to be addressed to preserve and advance the status of Indigenous languages. Through collaborations with the Language, Reading and Culture Program, Department of Linguistics and the American Indian Studies Program, AILDPI has created a community of scholars and practitioners that is truly unique in the country and, indeed, around the world. The many students who come to Tucson every summer participate in courses, workshops, and cultural events that promote both scholarly understanding and educational practice in Indigenous language preservation, documentation, and revitalization.

Without doubt, AILDPI has impacted the country as students return home with fresh ideas, approaches applicable to their communities and a network of new colleagues. But AILDPI has had impact here at the University as well. Many AILDPI students go on to enroll in degree programs at the University, having experienced the power of their summer courses. When these students graduate, they move into positions of leadership where they are dedicated to Indigenous language education for their community.

The College of Education and the University of Arizona are committed to the long-term vitality of AILDPI in its second quarter century. The new scholars and teachers who have been touched by the AILDPI experience will ensure that Indigenous languages will have advocates and supporters for many years to come.

—Dean Ronald W. Marx, University of Arizona, College of Education

Many distinguished faculty and educators from across the country have been a part of AILDPI and have worked to protect Indigenous languages and cultures. We are proud of AILDPI’s accomplishments and for being recognized as one of the ten outstanding programs in the country for minority teacher preparation by the U.S. Department of Education. AILDPI has also made notable contributions in the international arena working with First Nations people of Canada and Indigenous communities in South America.

—President Robert N. Shelton, University of Arizona
American Indian Language Development Institute:
Thirty Year Tradition of Speaking from Our Heart

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Celebrating 30 Plus Years of Commitment
to Indigenous Language Education

Tucson, AZ
2010
American Indian Language Development Institute: Thirty Year Tradition of Speaking from Our Heart is a compilation of texts, essays, scholarly, creative writings, and personal reflections and commemorates the thirty years of commitment to Indigenous language education.

Cover designed by Tony Johnson
Green Rainbow Graphics, Sells, AZ, USA

Printed by Spectrum Printing Company, LLC, Tucson, AZ, USA
www.specprinttucson.com/

Published by the American Indian Language Development Institute
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Additional copies can be obtained from the:
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## Contents

Preface xiii

1. School-Community-University Collaborations: The American Indian Language Development Institute  
   Teresa L. McCarty, Lucille J. Watahomigie, Akira Y. Yamamoto, & Ofelia Zepeda 1

2. Revitalizing and Documenting Denaakk’e (Koyukon Athabascan)  
   Susan Paskvan 14

3. Innovative Training Opportunities: The NSF/AILDI Collaboration for Indigenous Language Documentation  
   Susan D. Penfield 15

4. Kowassaaton Ilhaalos: Let Us Hear Koasati  
   Developing and Implementing the Koasati Language Project  
   Bertney Langley & Linda Langley 20

5. Nosi: A Chickasaw Lullaby  
   Freyda Craw 27

6. Bahidaj (Sahuaro Cactus Fruit) Harvest 28

7. Saved by AILDI  
   Stacey I. Oberly 29

8. Using a Native Language Reference Grammar as a Language Learning Tool  
   Stacey I. Oberly 30

9. AILDI: My Family, My Friends  
   Sandra Warlie 39

10. Aia Iâ Kâkou Nâ Hâ’ina - The Answers Are Within Us: Language Rights in Tandem with Language Survival  
    Larry L. Kimura 41

11. Hiaki Nooka  
    Joe Sanchez 52

12. My Story  
    Danny Lopez 53

13. My Grandma  
    Valerie Switzler 63

14. “Keep the Languages Alive” with Elders, Teachers, Advocates, and Linguists: AILDI’s Balancing Act in Efforts to Maintain and Revitalize Endangered Languages  
    Akira Y. Yamamoto & Kimiko Y. Yamamoto 64

15. Special Events & Guest Speakers 70

16. Generational Transitions  
    Maxine Sam 71
| 17. | Indigenous Youth and Language Revitalization  
*Teresa L. McCarty, Mary Eunice Romero-Little, Larisa Warhol, & Ofelia Zepeda* | 72 |
| 18. | Gifts of Master-Apprenticeship: Development of the Revitalizing Endangered Indigenous Languages (REIL) Certificates  
*Nariyo Kono* | 81 |
| 19. | Microteaching | 84 |
| 20. | Lessons in Immersion Instruction from the American Indian Language Development Institute (AILDI)  
*Ivan Ozbolt* | 86 |
| 21. | My AILDI Experience  
*Marian L. Escalanti* | 96 |
| 22. | T-Ni’ok c T-himdag ‘o wud T-Gewkdag “Our Language and Our Way of Life is Our Strength”  
*Ofelia Zepeda* | 99 |
| 23. | United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the American Indian Language Development Institute’s (AILDI) Resolution on Language Rights of Indigenous Peoples Contributors | 103 |

Contributors 106