

POSITION PAPER

Re: Updated Native Language Instructors Credentials

1. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's position regarding the certification of Native Language Instructors is that the tribal college, Sitting Bull College shall determine the criteria and credentials required for instructors desiring to teach Lakota or Dakota languages and shall be the tribe's only certifying body.
2. Sitting Bull College has begun updating its Language Instructor Certification criteria to include new requirements for teaching Lakota or Dakota languages based on the principle that a thorough pedagogical and linguistic understanding of Lakota is essential to teaching the language knowledgably and effectively in the classroom. Upon approval from the SBC Board of Directors, currently certified Lakota or Dakota teachers will have 2 years to update their current certifications and new Certifications will only be issued upon fulfillment of these updated Criteria:
 - a. Updated Lakota/Dakota Instructor Criteria
 - i. 12-credits **Lakota Language: Levels 1-4** or "Eminent Scholar Exemption"
based on updated Eminent Scholar Exemption Exam
 - ii. 3-credits **Lakota Phonology**
 - A course that provides a linguistic introduction to the Lakota phonetic system– its sounds and writing system. Course focuses include: training consistency in writing the language; preparing teachers to use techniques to teach Lakota sounds in a way that create a positive learning environment and which help students feel secure in language learning; emphasis on the use of Instructional technologies including specialized font and keyboard software; a linguistic understanding of Lakota phonology; the issues and difficulties associated with English speakers

learning these sounds, and developing a professional approach on teaching these concepts.

iii. 3-credits **Pedagogical Grammar I: Lakota Morphology**

- A course that provides a firm foundation in the grammatical rules of the Lakota language. This course focuses on: the primary linguistic introduction to Lakota grammar and particularly its inflectional and derivational morphology (the internal structure of words) and pedagogical approaches to explaining this grammar. Emphasis will be on rules associated with Lakota verbal morphology: Ablaut, Terminal vowel loss, Grammatical persons, Stative verbs, Active verbs, Irregular verbs, Transitivity, Valence, Object affixes, Possessive verbs, Reflexive verbs, Reciprocal verbs, Auxiliary verbs, Causative verbs, Dative and Benefactive cases, Plural of Lakota verbs, Reduplication, Indefinite object markers and other affixes.

iv. 3-credits **Introduction to Second Language Teaching Methods: Lakota in the Classroom.**

- A course which provides an introduction to language teaching methods for teachers of the Lakota language- taking a communicative, learner-centered approach to the teaching of language. It will consider effective techniques and activities for numerous aspects of language learning, including the four skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening), grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and assessment. Emphasis will be on curriculum, assessment, and instructional technology. The course also examine aspects of classroom management, including the use of pair and group work, lesson planning, and the sequencing of activities. The course objectives are: participants will learn a repertoire of language teaching techniques and ways of organizing instruction; participants will reflect on the principles underlying various forms of effective language instruction, and will develop an understanding of these principles, giving them the ability to develop further activities and techniques on their own.

v. **SBC Lakota Instruction Exam**

- A test developed by SBC which assesses a candidate's overall knowledge of the language and effectiveness in the classroom.