

Promotion of Community Wellness Through Language Activism & Revitalization: A Student Perspective



+++ Sacred Roots Language Society +++

**Jesse DesRosier, Kaylene Big Knife, Dannii Yarbrough,
Willow Kipp and Jake Lahr**

Our Mission

SRLS believes in the importance of establishing one's identity through language and organizes community based activities to bring awareness to the endangered status of Montana's indigenous languages while providing a supportive community committed to representing this diversity both on and off campus.



Our Model

- Creating Safe Space
- Awareness and Advocacy
- Online Presence
- Fundraising
- Community Involvement
- Beyond Language
- Networking

Creating Safe Space

- Our goal was to establish a space within the university setting that provides Native students the opportunity to represent and advocate for their languages.
- While the society is aimed at Native students membership is open to **anyone** interested helping raise awareness for Native languages.
- Our society's membership varies from local immersion school graduates, to linguistic majors, language speakers, future teachers, and those simply interested in indigenous language.



Awareness and Advocacy

- Language activism at the college level provides a unique opportunity for students' personal development and is a critical stage in the development of one's identity.



Online Presence

- The first project undertaken by our society was a Valentine's Day video posted to YouTube featuring the phrase "I love you" in 10 different indigenous languages, with nearly 8,000 views, it was featured on the popular site UpWorthy.
- Social Media
 - Our Facebook has 453 members and provides a place for our members to interact with one another and post local cultural and language related activism events.
- Website
 - Improves discoverability of our society and provides a place for us to publish our upcoming events and collect donations.

SECOND ANNUAL SACRED ROOTS LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CONFERENCE
Payne Family Native American Center
University of Montana - Missoula
Friday November 11th thru Sunday November 13th, 2016

1491s 1491s 1491s 1491s

As part of the conference, the 1491's will perform in the UC Theatre on Saturday, November 12th at 7:00 - 10:00 PM.
There will be an admission fee to 1491's event.
Adult: \$20.00 - Student: \$15.00 - Kids: \$10.00

Friday: Decolonization
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Keynote Speaker: April Charlo
Executive Director of the Salish and Kootenai Language Immersion School

Saturday: Revitalization
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Keynote Speaker: Kalaniakea Wilson,
Ph.D Candidate in Indigenous Politics at the University of Hawaii at Manoa

Sunday: Activism
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Keynote Speaker: Dustin Monroe,
CEO Native Generational Change

A detailed agenda will be available at conference.
Light refreshments will be provided throughout the conference, and a public feed will take place in the MAC on Saturday at 12:00 PM.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY 2016

10.10.16
7:30AM Opening Prayer and Teepee Raising with Stephen Small/Salmon on the Oval
11:00AM Peaceful March with LaNada WarJack on the N. Side of Van Buren St. to Fairbridge
12:00PM Round Dance on the Oval
2:00-4:30PM Tour of Payne Family Native American Center (PFNAC) every 30 minutes
6:00-10:00PM Hourly Showings with Destiny Velle at PFNAC Planetarium

10.11.16
8:00AM-5:00PM Film: Personal Reflections of Columbus Day @ PFNAC
12:30PM Hoop Dance at PFNAC Rounda
2:00PM Beading Circle at PFNAC
5:00PM Learning Traditional Dance with Naomi Billedeaux and Antonio Morsette at PFNAC
7:00PM Campfire Stories at PFNAC

10.12.16
8:00AM-5:00PM Film: Personal Reflections of Columbus Day @ PFNAC
12:00PM Native Get Out the Vote Rally at the Missoula County Fairgrounds
4:00PM Closing Ceremony & Flute Song with Troy DeRoche of Blackfeet Nation at the Missoula Art Museum
6:00PM Get out the Vote Live Performance with 1491's at the UM Uwey Lecture Hall (special guest Denise Juneau)

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Fundraising

- As a student organization we have the capability of receiving university funds and often collaborate with other student groups to reduce costs.
- Local Non-Profits are often willing to donate money and goods for events.
- Community donations
- Traditional fundraising techniques
- Donation of Time and Services

Community Involvement

- Partner with other student organizations
- Volunteer at other community events
- Non-Profits:
 - Native Generational Change
 - Urban Indian Center
- Local Businesses:
 - Native Teaching Aids
 - YMCA
- Partnerships within community
 - Indigenous Artist



Beyond Language

- We recognize that language is more than just words. It's about identity, culture, but also mental and physical wellness.
- Our first large event was a 5k "Save Our Languages" fun run (runners ranged from grade school aged youth to elders) that integrated language, language activism, and healthy lifestyle awareness.
- Our second fun run also coincided with a basketball tournament cohosted by Native Generation Change and Sacred Roots Language Society.



Networking

- In the fall of 2015 we hosted our first community oriented language and culture conference.
- At the three day conference, students and community members alike have the opportunity to network with others to share their stories and knowledge on how each tribe was approaching language revitalization within their communities.



Summary

- Student organizations are in a unique position to create and host events due to their position within the university system.
- By organizing events students can take leadership positions as representatives of their community within the university setting, empowering themselves to initiate change and raise awareness for their languages.
- Develop organizational, networking, and fundraising skills that are valuable for students' post-college life.

**Thank you, ki-tah-tah-mi-yin [Cree],
siksiktsimmaattsitsi [Blackfoot],
migwech [Chippewa], lemlmtš [Salish],
mahalo nui loa [‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i], and thank you.**

- Visit us at sacredrootsociety.com
- Email us sacredrootsociety@gmail.com
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