



# *15<sup>th</sup> Annual Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Symposium*

***LANGUAGE IS LIFE: STRATEGIES FOR LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION***

**High Country Conference Center, Northern Arizona University  
Flagstaff, Arizona, May 2 & 3, 2008**

The National Geographic Society's Enduring Voices Project notes that every two weeks another of the world's languages is no longer being spoken. The Project identified five language "hot spots" around the world where Native languages are most rapidly being lost, three of which are in the Americas: the Northwest Pacific Plateau, the Southwestern United States and Oklahoma, and Central South America.

For the past fifteen years the Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Symposiums have been disseminating information about effective practices to teach and learn Indigenous languages. Held across the United States and Canada, these symposiums have brought together community language activists, language teachers and linguists to share and disseminate ways to revitalize our precious Indigenous linguistic heritage so that it will not be lost to our children. The 15<sup>th</sup> Symposium is proud to announce three distinguished keynote speakers:

**Dr. Christine Sims** (Acoma) teaches at the University of New Mexico and has worked for the last quarter century with tribes in areas of language planning, language teacher training and language revitalization. She co-chairs the Indigenous Special Interest Group for the National Association for Bilingual Education as well as the New Mexico Bilingual Advisory Committee.



**Darrell Robes Kipp** (Blackfoot) is the co-founder and director of the Piegan Institute on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana. Founded in 1987, the Institute's mission is to research, promote and preserve the South Piegan (Blackfoot) Language. He designed the Cuts Wood School immersion program. This privately funded school is one of the exemplary models of tribal language revitalization. He has worked with indigenous communities in New Zealand, Hawai'i and the Balkans and with over one hundred American Indian tribes. He is a noted historian and filmmaker and belongs to the two oldest Blackfoot societies: Okan Medicine Lodge and Medicine Pipe.

**Dr. Peggy Speas** is a Professor of Linguistics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She is a founding member of the Navajo Language Academy, which promotes scholarship on the Navajo language and supports Navajos in their efforts to keep their language alive and strong. She is the co-author (with Dr. Evangeline Parsons Yazzie, SILS 15 Symposium Co-Chair) of *Diné Bizaad Bíná'hoo'aah* (*Rediscovering the Navajo Language*).



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