

TITLE: Dakota Language Apprentice
REPORTS TO: Dakota Studies Program Co-Directors
STATUS: Full-time
SALARY: \$22.50/hour
TOUR OF DUTY: Generally, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Language Apprentice will operate within the Voices of Our Ancestors (VOA) program. The responsibility of the Language Apprentice is to continually build up their language skills to become invaluable experts of the language in the community while also passing on their knowledge to current and future cohorts of Learners. The goal of the VOA program is to produce highly proficient second-language Dakota speakers who are certified to teach Dakota language in local schools.

Responsibilities and duties for the Language Apprentice include:

- Continuously improving one's own knowledge of and fluency in the Dakota language in a self-motivated and self-directed manner;
- Meeting one-on-one with language elders several hours per week, on and off SWC campus; during this time the Language Apprentice is expected to speak only Dakota to the elders;
- Recording high quality audio of Dakota language conversation with language elders;
- Preparing and leading small-group Dakota language lessons with VOA Language Learners so Language Learners can learn and practice the language and develop their proficiency;
- Fostering a supportive VOA learning environment that encourages the use of the Dakota language whenever possible, including full immersion environments;
- Provide language lessons and speaking practice for previous VOA participants so that they can maintain and improve their language skills even after leaving the program and working elsewhere in the community;
- Providing language expertise to other department members to support the work of the Kaksiza Caŋhdeška Center and Dakota Studies Department;
- Properly archiving Dakota language audio recordings;
- Documenting notable words or language learned during sessions with elders.

Minimum qualifications

- Previous participation in the SWC Voices of Our Ancestors program, or equivalent program
- Intermediate proficiency in the Dakota language; must be able to successfully navigate immersion sessions with elders for an hour or longer while using only Dakota
- Ability to work with Dakota elders in a respectful manner
- Sensitivity to Dakota cultural protocol
- Ability to drive to meet language elders outside the College
- Ability to teach the Dakota language to others in small-group settings
- Willingness to be trained on linguistics and on language documentation techniques, hardware, and software, such as Fieldworks Language Explorer (FLEX)

Preferred qualifications

- Advanced proficiency in the Dakota language
- Previous experience working with language documentation techniques, hardware, and software
- Previous experience teaching the Dakota language, especially in small-group immersion settings
- Knowledge of linguistics or applied linguistics