

Sisseton Wahpeton College

Title: Dakota Language Learner
Reports To: Dakota Studies Voices of Our Ancestors Program Co-Directors
Status: Temporary, Full-time, Two Year Grant Funded Position
Tour of Duty: Generally, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm (Mon-Fri)

Summary

The Dakota Language Learner is a student who will be responsible for progressively learning the Dakota language under the mentorship of the Dakota Language Apprentices, department coworkers, and fluent Dakota language speakers as part of the Voices of Our Ancestors program. The position of Dakota Language Learner requires an individual that is motivated to speak Dakota to and with others, is comfortable working and talking with elders, and can work diligently with minimal supervision.

The Dakota Language Learner will be required to sign a two-year employment agreement and this position will end upon the conclusion of the grant-funded project. The Voices of Our Ancestors program is intended to train new language teachers, so upon completion of this project, the Dakota Language Learner is highly encouraged to commit to two years as an immersion educator for Sisseton Wahpeton College and/or the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate.

Responsibilities/Duties

1. Taking an intensive course schedule of Dakota language classes.
2. Having daily conversation practice with instructors and elders.
3. Participating in cultural activities such as moccasin game, craft making, buffalo harvest, and gathering plants, and going on language related field trips.

Minimum Qualifications

- High School diploma or GED required.
- Has completed Dakota Language 1 or higher level Dakota Language class with an A or B grade within the last three years, or can demonstrate equivalent language ability.
- Proficient with Microsoft Office and office machinery.
- Must have excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Must be in good academic standing with SWC.

Required Skills and Attributes

- Must be highly motivated to learn the Dakota language.
- Good planning, organizational, and time management skills (including punctuality).
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work well as a team player. Comfortable working in groups.
- Displays high standards of ethical conduct. Conducts oneself with Dakota Wicoh'anj.
- Works independently with minimal supervision.
- Demonstrates responsible behavior and attention to detail.
- Good communication skills with elders.

Preferred Qualifications

- Has completed Dakota Language II or higher in the last three years.
- Has shown initiative in consistently studying the Dakota language on their own outside of a formal class.
- BA in Dakota Studies, Linguistics, Language Teaching, or related field.
- Three years of professional experience.
- Experience learning a second language.