

AKABE

An Affiliate of the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) & TESOL

Newsletter Volume 35, Issue 1

February 2013

Update on Programs Across Alaska

Yukon-Koyukuk

Doyon Limited funds expansion of Denaakk'e language education efforts across 43 communities

Anchorage Area

Alaska Native Cultural Charter School's continues to develop its language programs

Lower Kuskokwim

Over the next three years, their Yugtun/Cugtun First Language Program and English only sites will transition to a Dual Language Program

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Kodiak Island



Alutiiq language education programs expand to reach new learners from birth to the golden years
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TESOL 2013

Dallas, Texas
March 20-23

International Convention & English Language Expo - Harmonizing Language, Heritage, & Culture

www.tesol.org/convention2013

Alaska Native Language Summit

Anchorage, Alaska
April 26-27

A Statewide Alaska Native Survey Report will be shared in conjunction with the Language Summit, sponsored by the Alaska Native Heritage Center

SAVE THE DATE!

Alaska BMEEC 2013
Anchorage, Alaska
November 20-22

STEAM* and The Wisdom of Our Languages & Cultures (*Science Technology Engineering, Arts and Math)
(See www.BMEEC.net)
Presenter Deadline:
April 19th

Alaska Native Heritage Center Language Project

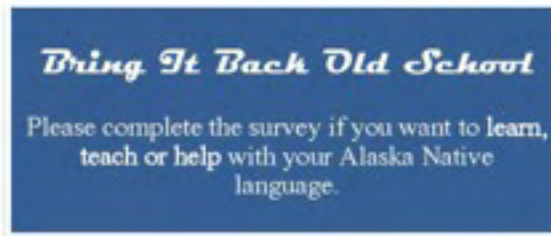
Revitalizing Indigenous Languages for Urban Alaska Native Residents

The Alaska Native Heritage Center has attained funding for a one year project that addresses the rapid pace of language loss of Alaska Natives, the impact that migration to urban areas has on language loss, and the need to develop a plan to preserve the diverse languages of the Alaska Natives who reside away from their tribes and communities in the city of Anchorage. Anchorage is home to the fourth largest Native American population in the United States, which has grown from 29,730 in 2000 to 36,062 in 2010. Over 26% of Alaska's Natives now reside in Anchorage. These residents represent 11 linguistically distinct Alaska Native cultural groups including Yup'ik/Cup'ik, Athabaskan, Unangax, Sugpiaq, Eyak, Tsimshian, Tlingit, Haida, and Inupiaq nations. Natives residing in Anchorage experience social, educational, health, and economic disparities as they grapple with the effects of rapid social changes. Alaska's indigenous languages are being lost at an alarming rate and all but two are now listed as



Like us on [Facebook](#)

Language Survey [Click Here to Complete a Survey](#)



Courtesy of the [Alaska Native Heritage Center](#). Contact [Aiggailnguq "Ember" Thomas](#), Lead Language Coordinator with your questions about the survey or upcoming summit at 907-330-8000.

endangered by UNESCO. Language loss is accelerated by the migration of large numbers of Alaska Natives to urban areas. Anchorage's current language preservation resources are inadequate to meet the needs of the population. Therefore, ANHC's project goal is to develop a plan for preserving and revitalizing the diverse languages of Alaska Native people who are culturally displaced within the Anchorage area.

This one year grant gives the Heritage Center the opportunity to find out how many language learners and resources are in Alaska, so they can connect all Alaska Native language learners in Anchorage with the Native language programs in the state. Success in attaining the next grant will mean language classes at the Heritage Center in about a year. If you want to learn, teach or be involved in language revitalization and preservation, please complete this online survey.

Language Programs Update

Photo courtesy of Patrick Saltonstall and the Alutiiq Museum of Kodiak, Alaska.

Interior Language Programs

Doyon Limited recently funded Doyon Foundation to start an Alaska Native language program. They are currently recruiting for a coordinator to support 43 villages in the region as they work toward building sustainability for language programs throughout the Interior.

The Yukon-Kuyukuk School District is offers daily instruction in Denaakk'e (Koyukon or Lower Tanana Athabascan) over videoconference and on-site instruction. The program is supported by one Native language coordinator, certified teachers, and paraprofessionals teaching in three of the nine villages participating.

There are about 300 students enrolled in the nine river schools, across PreK-12th grades. There are 170 students receiving Denaakk'e or Menhti Kenaga' instruction, on varying schedules.

Among their latest activities are language program enhancements for Denaakk'e literacy and an onsite immersion class, as well as use of Google Plus as a computer-aided communication tool.

Anchorage Area Language Programs

The Alaska Native Cultural Charter School, opened in 2008-09, operates with support through the Anchorage School District. The school's curriculum is structured around four themes:

1. Living in place
2. Language and Communication
3. Culture and Expression
4. Tribe and Community

They recently received a 2011-12 Title I Distinguished School Award from the Department of Education and Early Development, for closing the achievement gap for their students.

The school features a language maintenance program for PreK-3rd grade students through Yup'ik Immersion. Among the highlights of their language efforts across the school, the 2nd annual Yup'ik Spelling Bee was a big success.

The school is underway planning an Inupiaq Program.

Visit: www.asdk12.org/schools/anccs/pages/index.html to learn more about the school and its offerings.

Lower Kuskokwim Language Programs

This school year (2012-2013), the Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD) has three different instructional programs. These include the Yugtun/Cugtun First Language (8 sites), Dual Language (10 sites), and English only sites (9 sites). Over the next three years, the goal of LKSD is to transition in 2014 for 19 of 27 LKSD schools to implement a Dual Language program.

The Dual Language sites model the Gomez & Gomez Language Program where instruction begins in students first language than to their second language, and gradually increases. By 3rd grade, the ratio of student first language to second language is close to equal instruction time. The goal of this model is to have students proficient in both languages.

Visit: <http://dlti.us/3.html> to learn more about the Gomez & Gomez Dual Language Enrichment (DLE) Model.



National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) Goals for the Coming Year...

Promote educational policies and programs which give all students the opportunity to become bilingual.

- Defend the rights of language-minority Americans threatened by English-Only extremists as needed
- Support the affiliate organizations to defend anti-bilingual actions in their respective states as requested as well as other requests where NABE representation is needed
- Update the NABE website to provide more resources for its members.
- Ensure that the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act provides for equity and excellence for language-minority students.



New Opportunities for Learning Kodiak Alutiiq

Spotlight on the Alutiiq Language

Overview of Kodiak Alutiiq Revitalization

Several Kodiak area organizations are working together to expand access to Alutiiq language learning opportunities on Kodiak Island and off, via the Internet and a series of Kodiak-based classes. These recent opportunities grew from over a decade of grassroots language revitalization efforts by many organizations and individuals.

Community members can get involved in revitalization efforts and learn the Alutiiq language through several opportunities right now. With only 44 known fluent speakers of Kodiak Alutiiq, it is important that people with interest in learning and speaking Alutiiq make time for it now while there are still first language speakers to talk to. In addition to the following formal classes, there are also several informal learning opportunities such as Language Club at Sun'aq Tribe on Wednesdays at noon. Active learners and Elders encourage interested community members to take advantage of opportunities within their own families, as there are many who grew up hearing Alutiiq spoken but are not confident as speakers themselves.

All of the following Alutiiq language education programs have received inspiration and instructional support from several consultants from immersion language revitalization efforts in Oklahoma and in the [Where Are Your Keys?](#) techniques.

Kodiak High School (KHS) Alutiiq Language Class

Piloted first in January 2011 as a one semester course taught four days a week, the KHS Alutiiq Language I class expanded to a full year course in August 2011, and is completing its second full school year. Addition of Alutiiq Language II as a separate class was also piloted this school year, with plans to offer both courses on an ongoing basis.

The class is offered for World Languages high school credit. Alisha Drabek and Candace Branson co-teach the course with support and class involvement from a group of fluent Alutiiq Elders and team of other adult learners. The [Kodiak Island Borough School District](#) provide funding for the Alutiiq I course through Department of Education Alaska Native Education grants, with additional support for class resources from [Kodiak Area Native Association](#), and [Koniag, Inc.](#)

This Fall 2012, in partnership with the [Native Village of Afognak](#), Drabek and Branson are now developing the Alutiiq Language II course so students can acquire a full two years of World Language credit in Alutiiq and build their fluency as both speakers and future teachers of Alutiiq. There are four students enrolled in this pilot course. Contact Alisha Drabek at 907-539-5015 or alisha@nunaworks.com with any questions about the KHS classes or resources shared via www.alutiiqlanguage.org from the class.

Kodiak College (KoC) Alutiiq Language Courses

[UAA-Kodiak College](#) offered introductory Alutiiq Language courses in years past, but is now developing a series of Alutiiq Language courses that can lead to a Certificate or AA Degree in Alaska Native Studies. Alutiiq Museum Language Manager Dr. April Counciller now serves as an assistant professor at Kodiak College, leading the program's development and instruction.

This Fall 2012, Kodiak College offered two sections of Alutiiq Language I (AKNS 101) and is proposing other cultural education courses as part of a five-year Department of Education grant to develop an Alutiiq Studies Program. These adult language instruction opportunities are in partnership with Kodiak's tribal organizations and the Alutiiq Museum, with involvement from local fluent Elders. The AKNS 101 and 102 courses are available via distance delivery for learners outside of Kodiak. The pilot of AKNS 101 served 26 students, and the current AKNS 102 has 13.

Contact Dr. April Counciller at Kodiak College at 907-486-1276 or agcounciller@kodiak.alaska.edu.



Cutmen Agnguartukut - We Are Dancing Forward workshop participants with instructors Theresa John and Agatha John-Shields. Photo courtesy of the Alutiiq Museum.

Afognak After School Program

Held each fall and spring, local Alaska Native students ages 7-10 years old can participate in an After School Alutiiq Language Program called “Uswillraraat Qipayaat” or “Children’s Corner.” Students learn about the Alutiiq culture and practice speaking the Alutiiq language. The program is taught by local Alutiiq language apprentice and artist Susan Malutin. Contact [Denise Malutin](#) at 907-486-6357 for more information at [Native Village of Afognak](#).

Island-wide Alutiiq Language Teacher Mentorship Project

An island-wide consortium led by Native Village of Afognak, Native Village of Port Lions, and the Alutiiq Museum also began an Alutiiq Language Teacher Mentorship Project through Administration for Native Americans (ANA) funding in 2011. Participating learner-teachers are also offering outreach into several elementary schools and preschools around the island. The Teacher Mentorship Project is developing preschool language immersion lessons, building participant fluency through regular Elder sessions, and producing a number of educational

resources to be available on the www.alutiiqlanguage.org. Contact Language Manager [Kari Sherod](#) at Native Village of Afognak at 907-486-6357 for more information.

Community members can access a variety of learning resources that support all of these efforts at the Alutiiq Museum website’s Alutiiq Language section, www.alutiiqmuseum.org, or at the new www.alutiiqlanguage.org website, which includes an online audio-enhanced dictionary, slides and flashcards, videos, song recordings, games, and books with read-aloud audio recordings.

Photo courtesy of Kodiak College and the Alutiiq Museum.

Evan Gardner, developer of the [Where Are Your Keys?](#) game and techniques demonstrates techniques that help accelerate language learning, community building, and language revitalization...Plus they are fun!



New CALL Program

The University of Alaska Fairbanks received a \$1.9 million federal grant for a cohort of graduate students to support Alaska Native language education efforts across the state.

UAF recently received a U.S. Department of Education grant to develop a three-year project that will expand their computer-assisted language learning (CALL) programs and graduate education for teachers. The CALL project seeks to benefit Native language programs across rural Alaska by graduating more Alaska Natives with doctoral and masters degrees.

Four teams comprised of 1 Alaska Native doctoral student and approximately five masters students will be selected as cohorts in the program to work with a faculty member. Each cohort will develop projects to improve Alaska Native language teaching. Two of the cohorts will focus on teaching Yugtun, one on teaching another Alaska Native language and one on teaching English Language Learners.

The program aims to help masters degree students who work in language immersion schools, dual language programs, or bilingual programs. They will prepare CALL materials for their classrooms as part of their projects. Each participating classroom will receive a SmartBoard and a set of iPads to be used by their students.

UAF associate professor Sabine Siekmann leads the project, with support from partners, including the Association of Village Council Presidents and the Lower Kuskokwim School District.

Graduate student applicants applied for [M.A. scholarships and Ph.D. fellowships](#) on February 15, 2013. The student cohort groups will be chosen soon.

AKABE Membership & Fundraising Drive

If you have not renewed your 2013 **membership** with AKABE, please do so today. Annual membership dues contribute toward our annual student scholarship and BMEEC events.

Download the membership application/renewal form on our website. Click on the [Become a Member](#) link in the left menu column.

In addition to regular membership dues, we have begun a Fundraising Drive to support the 2013 Scholarship and co-sponsorship of the Anchorage BMEEC event this coming November!

**Spread the word!
Contribute toward bilingual
education today!**

AKABE Essay Contest & Scholarship Postponed

The Annual AKABE essay contest and scholarship award are postponed for the time being. Please see our next quarterly newsletter for an announcement of the revised deadline.



AKABE 2012-13 Officers

President — Agatha John-Shields
President-Elect — Alisha Drabek, Ph.D.
Treasurer — Beth Hartley, Ph.D.
Secretary — Karen Waters
Elder — Elmer Goodwin
Past President — Annie Conger

New AKABE President-Elect



Please welcome Alisha Drabek as the new President-Elect for 2012-13. She is an Alutiiq language teacher and materials developer from Kodiak Island. She is also a contributor to the new www.alutiiqlanguage.org website, which features an online dictionary, teaching resources and audio recordings.

Photo of Alisha Drabek with Elder Phyllis Peterson, courtesy of the Alutiiq Museum.

Contact

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Online

AKABE Wiki: <http://akabe.wikispaces.com/>

AKABE Website:

<http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/npe/anea/akabe/index.html>

We invite you to friend our [AKABE Facebook](#) page.

