

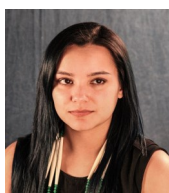
Native Language in the Workplace: A Roundtable Discussion

Join us on **Tuesday, March 26th** for the opportunity to hear influential Indigenous women discuss the revitalization of Native language and the affect this can and will have on the traditional workplace in the years to come.

For generations, saving Native American languages has been an important topic of discussion. The extinction of Native languages is a real crisis many tribes have faced and are still facing. Today, we are seeing more and more efforts being made by tribes to revitalize their language along with more support for these efforts from the White House. President Biden's administration has awarded more than \$11 million to preserve Native languages in the U.S. (U.S. Department of Education 2023).

The discussion will highlight how the revitalization of Native languages will impact the workforce. The outcome of the revival of a language is more speakers of that language. This will eventually carry over into the workplace and not just be confined to the home. What will this look like?

COME JOIN THE DISCUSSION!



Katie Thompson // Sauk Language Dept. // Moderator

Katie Thompson is a member of the Sac and Fox Nation. Her Sauk name is Chakihkwe, meaning "Little Woman." She is from the Peace Clan. She is also a descendant of Pawnee, Iowa, Otoe, and Kiowa. Katie grew up in Cushing, OK and currently lives in Sapulpa, OK. She is the acting director for the Sauk Language Department. She began working with fluent speakers of the Sauk language when she was 18 years old. She worked for the Sauk Language Department as a language instructor for 6 years and is currently in her 7th year serving as the director.



Faithlyn Seawright // Miss Indian Oklahoma // Panelist

Faithlyn Taloa Seawright is the 2024 Miss Indian Oklahoma and a proud tribal member of the Chickasaw Nation with Oklahoma Choctaw, Cherokee, and Mississippi Choctaw ancestry. Her Chickasaw and Choctaw name, Taloa, means 'To Sing'. She is the 26-year-old daughter of Gwen Burris and Larry Seawright. She is a participant of the Chikasha Academy Adult Immersion Program, where she has the opportunity to learn her language. Upon graduation, she wants to teach the Chickasaw language. In 2021, she received her bachelor's degree in museum studies from the Institute of American Indian Arts.



Sarah Adams // Activist // Panelist

Sarah Adams is an advocate for Native American culture, education, and rights. She is a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Sarah co-created an intertribal, empowerment organization called Matriarch that serves Indigenous women, 2 Spirit and non-binary people in central and NE Oklahoma. She worked alongside other Native advocates to see Indigenous Peoples' Day recognized in OKC. Sarah is a board member of the ACLU of Oklahoma, The Auntie Project, Nappy Roots Books, the Third Space Foundation, Respect Diversity Foundation, and is a proud member of Central Oklahoma Two Spirit Society.



Jennifer Barnes-Kerns // U.S. Department of State // Panelist

Jennifer Barnes-Kerns has been a foreign service officer with the U.S. Department of State since 2009. She grew up on her family's allotment land in Ada, Oklahoma. Though she has spent most of the past 14 years overseas, this year she was awarded a highly competitive sabbatical fellowship in Oklahoma through the Una Chapman Cox Foundation to study historical and modern tribal government relations with federal, state, and local governments as well as inter-tribal government relations; to study the Chickasaw language; and to raise awareness of foreign service career opportunities in Native American communities.



Della Warrior // The MICA Group // Panelist

Della Warrior (Otoe-Missouria) is President and CEO of MICA Group. She co-founded MICA Group in 2006 with Cherokee Chief Wilma Mankiller and has served on MICA's board of directors since its inception. Warrior was the first (and to-date, only) woman to serve as Chairperson and CEO of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe. She is the former Director of the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe, N.M. For twelve years before that, she was president of the Institute of American Indian Arts, where she raised over \$100 million and established the first permanent campus for the institution. In 2007, Warrior was inducted into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame.