

MEMORANDUM

To: Evergreen Admissions

From: Roxanne Hockett

Date: January 9, 2024

Subject: Native American Language Preservation and Revitalization

I. Executive Summary

This memo outlines the significance of preserving and revitalizing Native American languages and proposes key policy recommendations to support these efforts. Native American languages are an important part of the cultural identity of Indigenous peoples in the United States.

However, many of these languages are endangered or at risk of extinction. By implementing inclusive language protection measures, we can help reverse the decline and ensure the sustainability of Native American languages for generations to come.

II. Background

1. Importance of Native American Languages: Native American languages are more than just a way to communicate; they represent unique cultural, historical, and spiritual knowledge. They provide a connection to the traditions, customs, and ways of life of Indigenous communities.
2. Language Endangerment and Extinction: Over the centuries, several Native American languages have disappeared, and many more are currently endangered. Factors such as forced assimilation policies, residential schools, urban migration, and societal pressures have contributed to language loss.

III. Policy Recommendations

1. Native American Language Programs and Funding:

- Increase federal funding for Native American language preservation and revitalization programs. This includes grants, scholarships, and community-based initiatives aimed at language documentation, teaching, and immersion.
- Establish partnerships between tribal governments, educational institutions, and linguistic experts to develop comprehensive language programs that can be included into school curriculums.

2. Teacher Training and Capacity Building:

- Support the training and development of Native American language teachers and educators.
- Collaborate with tribal communities and educational institutions to create culturally sensitive and inclusive teacher certification programs for Native American languages.

3. Language Documentation and Resources:

- Provide resources for language documentation, including audio-visual recording equipment, transcription tools, and archiving systems. This will facilitate the preservation of endangered languages and support linguistic research.

4. Public Awareness and Cultural Recognition:

- Launch public awareness campaigns to educate the general public about the importance of Native American languages and the linguistic rights of Indigenous communities.

- Encourage the inclusion of Native American languages in public signage, official documents, and cultural events to promote cultural recognition and linguistic diversity.

IV. Conclusion

Native American languages hold immense cultural and ancestral value that must be safeguarded and revitalized. By implementing the proposed policy recommendations, we can help preserve these languages for future generations, support the well-being of Native American communities, and promote linguistic diversity in the United States.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require further information.

Thank you.

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