

The Sauk Language Pilot Summer Youth Internship Program

In June 2013, the Sauk Language Department began an 8-week pilot Summer Youth Internship Program, drawing eight high school students from Shawnee, Stroud, and Cushing to come to the Language Department to participate in daily, intensive immersion Sauk language learning.

The students for this groundbreaking pilot program are:

Cushing-Emily Nanaeto
Shawnee-Eddie Fullbright and Kaylon Wood

Stroud-Tiller Bucktrot, Cody Morris, Santana Spang, Harrison Spang and Nicole Watashe

These young people spend each morning, and a portion of each afternoon in language learning sessions and independent language/history/culture study with Sauk Language Department Director Jacob Manatowa-Bailey, Language Instructors Katie Grant and Mosiah Bluecloud, and the Sauk Language Master speakers Christine Williamson and Maxine Cobb.

The Sauk Interns are also given opportunities each afternoon to participate in other tribal governmental department activities. The students are able to work behind the scenes in areas and programs of the Sac and Fox Nation not normally seen by tribal members, but of utmost importance to the overall Nation.

The Sauk Language Department would like to sincerely extend our appreciation and gratitude to the following Sac and Fox Nation governmental departments for their generous participation in the Summer Youth Internship Program:

* Catherine Walker, Historical Re-

searcher-Sac and Fox National Library Archives

* Joshua Williamson, Tribal Youth Coordinator and Hope Thrush-McCallister, Substance Abuse Counselor-Black Hawk Health Center-Behavioral Health Services

* Anthony Ramirez, Exercise Specialist and Brittany Crawford, Registered/Licensed Dietitian-Black Hawk Health Center-Merle Boyd Center Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

* Daniel Wind, Environmental Director, Rendon Falls, Environmental Technician, Andrew Anderson, Environmental Technician, and Jeremy Fincher, Water Quality Specialist-Office of Environmental Services.

The Sauk Language Department would especially like to extend our deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks to the Sac and Fox Nation Business Committee: Principal Chief George Thurman, Second Chief Orvena Gregory, Secretary Jackie Williams, Committee Member Stella Nullake, and Treasurer Carla Reed. Their unwavering support and the provision of resources have made the Sauk Language pilot Summer Youth Internship Program a reality this year.

Each of these young people represents the future of both the Sauk language, and the Sac and Fox Nation as a whole. They say it takes a village to raise a child, and while the concept of a village may not be accurate, the concept of a tribal community coming together is totally correct. The support and resources of the entire Sac and Fox Nation have given these students a higher road to follow, and guideposts to get them to

a brighter future, which translates to a better future for all of the Sac and Fox Nation. We look forward to expanding our Youth Internship Program in the future, and providing more opportunities for tribal youth to learn their heritage language.

Recently the Sauk Language Department/Sauk Language Master Apprenticeship Program was awarded the title of "National Success Story" by the Administration for Native Americans. (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ana/success-story/cultural-survival-and-sac-and-fox-tribes-revitalize-sauk-language>). While receiving this title was a very satisfying honor, it is just the beginning for the revitalization of the Sauk language. It has long been a fact that the survival of the Sauk can only be achieved by involving our tribal youth in the learning and eventual teaching of the Sauk language. Beginning through enrollment of students in the high school Sauk language courses, participating in the Summer Youth Internship Program, and eventually successfully completing the Tribal Languages program for Native Language Learning and Teaching at

Bacone College, the Sauk Language Department has designed a three-level program for the revitalization of the Sauk language. With support and encouragement from the Sac and Fox community to the young people of the Nation, this program will be a success, and Sauk language will once more be the vibrant, living language of the Sauk people.

We would like to extend our thanks to the parents and families of the students of the Youth Internship Program for allowing us the opportunity to spend the summer with your high school students. This is a great group of smart and ambitious students, and we encourage you as parents to continue to encourage these teenagers to learn their language, do well in school, and become the next generation of educated Sauk language instructors and tribal leaders.

Most of all, the Sauk Language Department would like to personally thank each of these Sauk Interns for spending their summer with us. Thank you for joining with us this summer, and we look forward to seeing you in the high school Sauk language classes at Shawnee and Stroud this fall.



Pictured: Back Row-Anthony Ramirez, Exercise Specialist; Sauk Interns Cody Morris, Tiller Bucktrot, and Eddie Fullbright. Front Row-Sauk Interns Harrison Spang, Nicole Watashe, Santana Spang, Emily Nanaeto, and Kaylon Wood; and Brittany Crawford, Registered/Licensed Dietitian. Anthony and Brittany are participating as part of the Black Hawk Health Center/Merle Boyd Center Special Diabetes Program for Indians.



Pictured from the back, left to right: Sauk Language Summer Youth Interns Eddie Fullbright, Cody Morris, Kaylon Wood, Emily Nanaeto, Santana Spang, Tiller Bucktrot, Harrison Spang, and Nicole Watashe. Front Row: Business Committee Treasurer Carla Reed, Committee Member Stella Nullake, Principal Chief George Thurman, Sauk Language Instructor Katie Grant, and Secretary Jackie Williams. Not pictured: Sauk Language Director Jacob Manatowa-Bailey, Sauk Language Instructor Mosiah Bluecloud, and Second Chief Orvena Gregory.



Pictured: Back Row-Sauk Interns Cody Morris, Tiller Bucktrot, Santana Spang, and Harrison Spang. Front Row: Sauk Interns Eddie Fullbright and Nicole Watashe; Joshua Williamson, Tribal Youth Coordinator; Sauk Interns Kaylon Wood and Emily Nanaeto. Not pictured is Hope Thrush-McCallister, Substance Abuse Counselor. Joshua and Hope are participating through the Black Hawk Health Center/Behavioral Health Services.



Pictured: Back Row-Rendon Falls, Environmental Technician; Andrew Anderson-Environmental Technician; OES Environment Director Daniel Wind, and Jeremy Fincher-Water Quality Specialist; Sauk Language Interns Tiller Bucktrot, and Cody Morris. Front Row: Sauk Language Interns Kaylon Wood, Eddie Fullbright, Nicole Watashe, Emily Nanaeto, Santana Spang, and Harrison Spang.



Pictured: Sauk Language Interns Nicole Watashe, Santana Spang, Harrison Spang, and Cody Morris. Catherine Walker, Historical Researcher/Sac and Fox National Public Library, is leading the Interns in genealogy research through the Library archives.



Pictured: Front Row, Sauk Language Consultants Christine Williamson and Maxine Cobb. Back Row: Sauk Language Interns Santana Spang, Nicole Watashe, Emily Nanaeto, Tiller Bucktrot; Language Instructor Katie Grant; Eddie Fullbright, Kaylon Wood, and Harrison Spang. Not pictured: Sauk Language Director Jacob Manatowa-Bailey; Sauk Language Instructor Mosiah Bluecloud; and Intern Cody Morris.



Pictured: Sauk Language Interns Emily Nanaeto, Kaylon Wood, and Tiller Bucktrot.