Establishing Equitable Partnerships: An Endangered Language Revitalization Model

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Abstract: Since 1997, the Northwest Indian Language Institute has been involved in creating true partnerships with Native American language revitalizationists, as opposed to the traditional extractive practices of academia. In this talk, I will discuss one seminar course offered at the University of Oregon that has helped to re-calibrate roles of tribal and academic partners. The purpose and goals of the course will be covered, and student projects will be sampled. This course overview will be followed by an examination of the actors involved, insights from their experiences, and a discussion of how the overlapping components meshed into a more equitable experience.

Brief Bio: Robert is the interim director of both the Northwest Indian Language Institute and the Yamada Language Center at the University of Oregon. Since 1995 he has worked as a language teacher, teacher educator, and online learning specialist, and has worked with language revitalization since 2008. He is a Navajo/Dené descendant.