

SICC FNLKC Abstract

Workshop Title: Building Competent Storytelling, Understanding Anatomy of Words

Name of Presenters: Robert Hall

Robert Hall is called maato'ommstatto'osi (First-Winters-Sun) and is from the Blackfeet Reservation. He listened when Elders told him he must learn his language, niitsiipo"sin. He began studying dictionaries, grammar books, and linguistic literature focused in his language. He also studied Linguistics and Speech Pathology to assist him. He learned a fair bit of the Arapaho Language under his friend and mentor Neyooxet Greymorning who developed a language teaching method, Accelerated Second Language Acquisition (ASLA). For a brief period, he spoke and understood Arapaho better than my own language. He left the city to return home with the purpose to learn more of his language and to teach his language. He met William Big Bull who became his friend, mentor, big brother, and inspiration. They, with his cousin, Sterling Schildt, started a non-profit, The aasaissto Language Society to help reach people scattered across North America. He is Indigenous-centric and believes that Indigenous people are still the protectors of the Earth and our languages help us understand the natural world.

Abstract: Stories are the foundations of a competent language speaker. It is within sharing stories that humans build relationships and family. Robert will discuss various methods of language teaching, such as: Total Physical Response (TPR), ASLA, and Linguistics and how one can use and misuse these tools when learning and/or teaching a language. Robert will also draw on personal experiences to discuss successes and failures within learning both Arapaho and Blackfoot Language through storytelling.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this workshop, participants will:

- Audience will gain insight to the delicate nature of language revitalization and learn about theoretic and applicable techniques in deconstruction the meaning of a story through the anatomy of words.