FNLKC Conference Keynote

Workshop Title: Language Revitalization, Innovation & Hope
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 aasaisstto Language Society to help reach people scattered across North America. He his Indigenous-centric and believes that Indigenous people are still the protectors of the Earth and our languages help us understand the natural world.

Abstract: To aid individuals and communities in revitalizing First Nations languages, Robert will discuss various stories and scientific research ranging from video games, aviation, and crowd sourcing and how these stories can. He will also share his personal stories and the help, time, and effort he has engaged in learning his tribal language, Blackfoot, and the Arapaho Language. The main emphasis will be to have the audience apply stories of failure and success within their own communities and how delicate and precious to be dedicated to language revitalization

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this workshop, participants will:

- Gain an understanding of how to take scientific research from various fields (psychology, speech pathology, and neurology)
- Apply it to language revitalization work with precision and tact