

Dear Representative Windy Boy,

In response to one of the shared goals, to “Establish one or more MUS campuses as internationally-recognized center(s) for the study of Montana’s American Indian languages”, the University of Montana Linguistics Program faculty is excited for the opportunity to grow our program in the service of supporting language revitalization throughout Montana’s Indigenous communities.

The UM Linguistics Program faculty members all have experience working with Indigenous languages of North America, including languages spoken in Montana, as well as under-documented languages spoken across the world. We look forward to drawing on this experience to create a program to meet community needs. In order to do so, while maintaining our current program offerings (BA, MA, combined BA/MA, and Minor), we would like to identify the following needed support: additional faculty members, including Indigenous scholars and linguists.

With this additional support, we envision being able to develop a degree program which will provide students with the skills to:

- become community linguists;
- build lesson plans for language teachers;
- work with Class 7 teachers.

If we were to receive the additional support discussed above, we foresee the next step being to speak with communities to learn about the sorts of linguistic skills they would find most useful for Indigenous language teachers, learners, and activists.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,  
Mizuki Miyashita,  
on behalf of the UM Linguistics Program

**Mizuki Miyashita**

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