

Las Vegas, NV – On January 9, 2016, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) partnered with the Moapa Band of Paiute Tribe, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), to host the 3rd Language & History Symposium (L&HS), at the UNLV Student Union. The Clark County School District's (CCSD) Indian Education Program assisted with the youth portion of the program and CCSD parents volunteered. In addition, this year, the UNLV Native American Student Association (NASA) hosted a very successful social powwow, in conjunction with the L&HS.

The L&HS also referred to as *nu-wu-ung upaikavi*, which translates in the Southern Paiute dialogue to, "The People Will Talk," is in its 3rd year of providing a meeting to discuss the importance of tribal language revitalization. The L&HS honors the traditional knowledge and practices of the Southern Paiute people, as well as other tribes in the surrounding areas, by concentrating on not only the language, but also the history of tribal people.

The L&HS started out with the intent to strengthen the local Southern Paiute Tribes language and history, but has branched out to include many other tribes that come to call Southern Nevada home. The Southern Paiute traditional homelands range from southern Nevada, to southern Utah, to northern Arizona, and into southern California. Each band sends representatives to engage with one another to identify strategies for specific outcomes. The L&HS continues to be important for all who attend.

This year, the L&HS captured the attention of all the participants through games like *Kahoots* and BINGO. These fun games were used to show how learning language could be fun, which in turn made it more relevant for all. In addition, the elders and adults considered individual successes and also made recommendations to what they would like to improve. Presenters provided examples of how to use a *master apprentice* approach. In addition, the youth were not only able learn songs in Paiute and learn a story from the *Southern Paiute: Legends Lore Language and Lineage* book, but they also received resources from the UNLV college community. At the end of the day the youth sang the Paiute song, and acted out the story from the book for all to enjoy.

In addition to the language revitalization efforts, the NDE provides topic areas addressed in the *History & Contemporary Lifestyles of the Northern Paiute, Southern Paiute, Washoe and Western Shoshone* Curriculum Guide. As well as includes the Great Basin Native American Language State Statute that allows the Nevada tribal languages to be taught in the public schools, even if most of the tribes in the area are concentrating on developing their own language programs before even considering it in the public schools.

Overall, the 3rd L&HS was a success and we look forward to planning for next year's event. This year the Moapa Tribal Youth will participate in the 9th Annual Nevada Department of Education American Indian/Alaska Native Education Summit to express how important language restoration and revitalization efforts are to them, and their tribe.