Thirteen Valley CDC (TVCDC) - Lakȟóta Language Initiative

Lakȟóta ȟči iyá

Lakȟóta Fluent Speaker

The TVCDC Iyápi Glukínipi | Lakota Language & Education Initiative consists of a multi-faceted and multi-generational effort to revitalize, restore and reclaim our Lakȟóta language and lifeways on the Pine Ridge Reservation. We believe that every age group within our community plays a vital role in this effort. We have systematically created programs to address each generation from Early Childhood Education to Elementary Education and beyond.

Position Overview

The Fluent Speaker will work within the Lakȟóta Immersion Elementary Classroom(s) alongside the Teacher(s) to provide quality instruction, assistance, and guidance in all areas of the classroom. The Fluent Speaker is responsible for ensuring the children, staff and parents hear our Lakota language throughout all settings from the classroom, meetings, and etc. Also, the Fluent Speaker will ensure that the development of all curriculum reflects authentic thought and language. Finally, this position will entail flexibility in working with staff members, parents, and children that are still in the process of reclaiming their language.

To Apply

Please email a resume or application to jobs@thundervalley.org. Include “Lakȟóta Fluent Speaker” in the subject line. This position will be open until filled.

Reports to

Lakota Language Initiative Director

Compensation & Benefits

Compensation: $28,000 to $34,000 depending on experience
Position Type: Full-time, exempt/salaried
Position Location: Pine Ridge School (Pine Ridge, SD)
Benefits for full-time employees:

- Health Insurance- Employee premium paid by TVCDC
- Dental Insurance- Employee premium paid by TVCDC
- Vision & Hearing Insurance- Employee premium paid by TVCDC
- Simple IRA with up to a 3% match from TVCDC
- Accrued Paid Time Off up to 160 hours per year
- 14 Annual Paid Holidays
- Up to $1,500 annually in continuing education assistance
- Up to 200 flexible work hours for continuing education development
- Paid administrative leave when offices closed for inclement weather

Essential Duties & Responsibilities

- Must be consistently speaking in nothing but our Lakota language in all aspects of the job.
Adhere to and implement all TVCDC and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) policies and procedures and complete all required TVCDC & BIE staff requirements.

Must be willing to use no-English within the role. Any conversations, phone calls, communication with parents, etc. that require the use of any English must be conducted away from the children’s hearing.

Assist in the development of an Indigneous curricula, multimedia, and all other activities.

Oversee and complete the development of individual education plans for each child and communicate with parents.

Ensure that the classroom complies with local, state and federal laws and are a safe and appropriate environment for children.

Have knowledge of local, state and federal laws regarding safety requirements and inspection/certification procedures, and ensure that the center complies with all requirements.

Responsible for maintaining professional qualifications to include continuing education and training as required.

Project and manage budget and grant requirements.

Must be fully committed to the success of the program and classroom. Needs to be 100% reliable and consistent in delivering classroom instruction

Work collaboratively with the Lakota Language Initiative on creating and maintaining an extensive shared vocabulary including “modern” terminology, to ensure that English is never needed.

Assist in general areas of the day-to-day operations of the classroom

Prepare yearly instructional outlines and related daily lesson plans covering relevant units of study and specifying objectives, activities and evaluative methods/instruments for both group and individual instructional programs.

Teach students by selecting, developing, adapting and implementing appropriate instructional methods and techniques utilizing available resources to provide for academic achievement.

Continuously evaluate individual and group academic progress through the use of criterion-referenced tests, periodic standardized tests, oral tests, and/or other relevant evaluative methods/instruments.

Maintain control of assigned class(es) and handle discipline independently except for chronic or extreme behavior problems.

Supervise assigned students as scheduled, or provide for their supervision, throughout the academic day and/or activity in order to provide for the safety, health, and welfare of the students in compliance with school, Agency, and Area Guidelines.

Qualifications, Knowledge, Skills

- 2+ years prior experience working with children preferred.
- Highly proficient in the Lakȟóta language and lifeways
- Passionate for revisioning what Indigneous Education will be
- 1 to 2 years working in an Lakȟóta immersion setting

ADA Specifications

TVCDC is committed to making reasonable accommodations in accordance with the ADA for disabled employees who meet job requirements for education background, employment experience, skills, licenses, essential job duties and function, and any other qualification that are
job related. Employees must be able to perform tasks that are essential to the job, with or without reasonable accommodation. The Elementary Teacher will regularly be required to: Lift children 15lb-50lbs.

Vision & Mission Driven
Ideal candidate has a strong belief in the TVCDC vision and mission and wants to be a part of a growing and constantly evolving organization.

Wóihanąble Uŋkíthawapi Kiŋ (Our Vision)

We envision a liberated Lakota nation through our language, culture, and spirituality.

Wókhuwa Uŋkíthawapi Kiŋ (Our Mission)
Lakhóta thiyóšpaye na théča kiŋ Lakhól wičhóthi égna wičhózani na wičhóŋ’aŋ na wičhóun yuwáštepí kta čha wóasniye na wóslo’ič’iye uŋ wiyokíhi-wičhúŋyanpi.

Empowering Lakota youth and families to improve the health, culture, and environment of our communities through the healing and strengthening of cultural identity.

The above description is intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by the individual(s) assigned to this position. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all duties, responsibilities, and skills required. TVCDC position descriptions are not intended to create, nor are they to be construed to create, a contract between TVCDC and any staff member. All TVCDC staff are employees at will; therefore, TVCDC and each staff member are free to terminate that employment at any time and at either party’s discretion, with or without cause. Management reserves the right to modify, add, or remove duties and to assign other duties as necessary. In addition, reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions of this position.