

Expanding Knowledge: Fall 2021 Intern Profiles

CAROLANN DURO

TRIBAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Why did you choose to join the Tribal Professional Development – Internship Program?

I chose to join the Tribal Professional Development Internship Program because I was already spending a lot of time volunteering with the Serrano Language Revitalization Project. I really admire the language program's commitment to revitalizing our language. Because of the program, I've taken an interest in linguistics and started studying for my certificate in language revitalization. I hoped this internship could prepare me for future employment with the revitalization project by learning documentation skills, teaching, resource development, and more!

Was there something in particular that made you want to do this program?

I believe having a personal interest and passion for our language made me want to do this program and feel like I am contributing to the overall goal of revitalizing our language. I am thoroughly enjoy learning our language and speaking as often as I can. Being in an environment in this internship where that is highly encouraged is really special and fun!

What department did you choose to intern with? And why?

I chose to intern with the Serrano Language Revitalization Project under the Tribal Education Department. I love learning Serrano and I am very passionate about Indigenous language revitalization. I have learned a lot about linguistics in the last several years and wanted to use those skills in this internship.

What is one thing you hoped to learn?

I hoped to learn more of the behind-the-scenes operation of the language department and what tools they utilize to work on the dictionary, audio, working with our elder Ernest Siva, and creating resources. I was definitely able to learn more about all of those things and even more than I had anticipated!

Why should the Tribal Community participate in the Tribal Internship Program?

I think the Tribal Community should participate in the Internship program because it's an opportunity to find a passion and purpose in something that you might love doing. Additionally, it allows us to give back to our community that has provided so many opportunities for us. It's also a way for you to try a new skill or interest that otherwise might have a lot of barriers to entry. Taking advantage of something with open arms could introduce you to a world of new opportunities.

What is one or two valuable things you have learned in your internship?

One very valuable thing that I have learned in my internship is how to write in Ernest Siva's orthography (writing system) and this was really helpful so that I could get feedback from him on my resource development. It's also helpful because I hope that Ernest and Morongo could benefit from some of the resources I am developing—so being able to write in their system is necessary!