

Paper Title: Language Revitalization Programs: What's Working? What's Not?

Presenters: Dr. Wendy Makoons Geniusz, Madalyn McCabe, and Aidan Sanfelippo

This research investigates the successes, challenges, and themes of past and present Indigenous language revitalization programs to help build a foundation that current and emerging programs can use to succeed. This information was found in, but not limited to, books, articles, and firsthand interviews from successful individuals and organizations in the field of language revitalization. This project was designed to be preliminary research for a university-level course to teach post-secondary students about careers they could pursue in Indigenous language revitalization. This research could be useful to current and emerging language revitalization programs and to those thinking about working in this field.

Dr. Geniusz and her student collaborators, Madalyn McCabe and Aidan Sanfelippo, have recorded successes and challenges of language revitalization programs, tips on funding, and structures of current and past Indigenous language programs. They have compiled these into a list of best practices for planning and implementing language revitalization programs. This preliminary research was funded by a University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire's Summer Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Grant. Anyone working with Indigenous language revitalization who wishes to help us with our research is encouraged to contact us at: geniuszw@uwec.edu. Alternatively, anyone wishing to be updated on our latest research is welcome to email us.