



# 2017 Project Directors Meeting In Pursuit of Higher Education for All

## **Christine Sims, Ph.D.**

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Christine Sims is an associate professor in the Department of Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies in the College of Education at the University of New Mexico. She completed her doctoral work at the University of California at Berkeley, focusing on issues of heritage language maintenance and revitalization among American Indian tribes. Dr. Sims specializes in Indigenous language revitalization and maintenance issues, providing technical assistance to Indigenous nations in language program planning and training American Indian language teachers.

The American Indian Language Policy Research and Teacher Training Center at the University of New Mexico was established in 2008 through the efforts of Dr. Sims. The Center engages in public advocacy and training support to Indigenous language maintenance and revitalization initiatives in New Mexico and has sponsored several international language symposia with Indigenous participants from Latin America and South America. Dr. Sims has also been invited to Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Mexico to learn about Indigenous language efforts in these countries. The Center's most recent projects focused on training and materials development support for Native language teachers working with New Mexico Native children between the ages of 0 and 8. The project was funded by the W.K. Kellogg and McCune Foundations.

Dr. Sims has worked as the New Mexico director for the National Indian Bilingual Center, bilingual program director for her Pueblo, and consultant to many different Indigenous language programs on language preservation issues. She has served as a member of the New Mexico Bilingual Advisory Committee for the Public Education Department's Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau.

Dr. Sims has received various recognitions of her work in Native language preservation nationally as well as in New Mexico. She was selected by the National Association for Bilingual Education as the 2002 recipient of the Ramon L. Santiago President's Award for research and advocacy on language rights issues for Native American communities; received the 2002 New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education Award for contributions to Native American Bilingual Education in New Mexico; recognized by the New Mexico State Senate for her contributions to Native Language and Culture in 2004; and received the 2013 Senator Joseph M. Montoya Award from the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education for state and national contributions to Native Language issues.

Dr. Sims is a member of Acoma Pueblo and resides with her family on the Acoma Pueblo Indian reservation in northwestern New Mexico.