Vincent Werito is the newest faculty member in the Institute for American Indian Education. Dr. Werito was hired in the summer of 2010 as a tenure-track faculty member of the American Indian Education program in the Department of Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies (LLSS.) Dr. Werito is from Torreon (southwest of Cuba) and his parents now live in Ojo Encino (north of Torreon). Dr. Werito attended Bloomfield High School and received his bachelor’s degree from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, and his master’s and doctorate degrees from the University of New Mexico. “I knew I would go to college, but didn’t know for what,” he said, regarding his desire to obtain an education.

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Dr. Werito actually began his college career at New Mexico State University (NMSU) because of a business bridge program that Bloomfield High School had that connected to NMSU. However, Dr. Werito said he realized that he did not like accounting and looked for a program in Native American Studies at some other college. His search led him to Fort Lewis College, although he also looked into programs at the University of Arizona. Dr. Werito obtained a bachelor’s degree in Southwest Studies from Fort Lewis and later on a Dine Language Teaching Certification. Dr. Werito worked at a school in Ojo Encino while he worked on obtaining his teaching certification. He traveled nearly every weekend for two years to Shiprock for all-day classes that Fort Lewis College held there in conjunction with Dine College.

Dr. Werito was able to work as a teacher at the school in Ojo Encino through a provisional license since he did not have his teaching degree or license yet. The school really needed teachers, particularly Native American teachers, according to Dr. Werito. Upon completion of his undergraduate degree and certification, he entered UNM to work on his master’s degree in education, and eventually his doctorate degree. During this time, he worked as a substitute teacher in Albuquerque Public Schools (APS,) including time as the Native Language Teacher at Manzano High School. He also worked as a Resource Teacher for APS in their main office. Dr. Werito said he is glad to be a part of the IAIE program. “I want to get our education (Native American) on the agenda – to redefine and reaffirm our own identity and education system,” he said.

“Preparing Students for the New Mexico Teacher Assessment”

by Jay Ruybalid

IAIE held a test-taking workshop at UNM-Gallup that received very high ratings from those that attended. The workshop was held on August 13 and 14, 2010, at the branch campus there and was conducted by Dr. Terri Flowerday. The workshop was attended by 11 students and all of them commented that the workshop was very helpful. “The instructor was very prepared and knowledgeable,” said one student. “I enjoyed receiving feedback from others in the class. I learned a few new things about study strategies that I was not familiar with, so the workshop was very beneficial to me and my studying strategies.”

The test-taking workshops sponsored by IAIE are generally held at least twice per year. The focus of the workshops has been to help education students in their efforts to obtain licensure. Topics covered...
New Mexico American Indian History Curriculum Project

by Dr. Glenabah Martinez

The Institute for American Indian Education (IAIE) was awarded a grant from the New Mexico Public Education Department’s Indian Education Division to engage in curriculum development based on the New Mexico American Indian History and Government Curriculum Guide for elementary, middle, and high schools. The faculty facilitators, Dr. Christine Sims and Dr. Glenabah Martinez, convened a group of social studies educators in the summer of 2010 from districts across the state that serve Native American communities to participate in this project. The teachers included Marie Martinez and Randy Thorne (Taos Day School), Azelle Humetewa (Native American Community Academy), Natalie Martinez (Laguna Middle School), and Vincent Werito (Albuquerque Public Schools). During each work session, the teachers developed social studies curriculum for K-12 classrooms. The final product will result in a NM American Indian History and Government Curriculum Guide that will be available by the summer of 2011.

For more information, contact Glenabah Martinez at 277-6047.

Annual Summer Institute for Native Language Teachers

by Dr. Christine Sims

Native speakers were invited to participate in the annual Native American Language Teachers’ Institute (NALTI) held June 7-12, 2010, on the UNM campus. This summer program is sponsored by the American Indian Language Policy Research and Teacher Training Center, based in the UNM College of Education. The Institute for American Indian Education helped provide supplemental support for participants and special presenters. Forty-four Native language teachers representing 10 different tribes attended the week-long institute. New Mexico and Arizona tribal languages represented in the summer cohort included: Keres speakers from Acoma, Santa Ana, and Santo Domingo Pueblos; Tiwa speakers from Taos and (continued on next page)
Isleta Pueblos; Athabaskan speakers from the Diné Nation, as well as the Jicarilla, Mescalero and White Mountain Apache tribes. In addition, nine Meskwaki language speakers of the Sac and Fox Nation, including their Tribal Chairman, traveled from Tana, Iowa to New Mexico to participate in the 2010 institute.

The week’s activities were led by Dr. Christine Sims, Assistant Professor in the Department of Language, Literacy and Sociocultural Studies, assisted by veteran Native language teachers and the Language Center staff. The week was designed to provide daily opportunities for participants to work on collaborative assignments across language groups as well as within their respective languages. A combination of lectures, presentations, and language teaching demonstrations were utilized to highlight key principles of second language learning and oral language development. As well, Native speakers learned language teaching strategies using language immersion approaches, explored issues related to language program development in school and community based settings, instructional planning, and working in language teams, developed a final language teaching activity presented in their own respective language.

Plans are already underway for the 2011 NALTI which will be held June 6-11 at the University of New Mexico. For more information contact: Dr. Christine Sims at csims@unm.edu or Dr. Penny Bird, Program Manager at cpbirdsd@unm.edu

**Red Willow Community Education Project**

by Dr. Glenabah Martinez

Glenabah Martinez and Shawn Duran of Taos Pueblo organized and co-facilitated a series of workshops called “Red Willow Community Education Projects” focusing on the question: “How can we improve the quality of life for our people at Taos Pueblo?” The presenters of each workshop were members of Taos Pueblo with the exception of Abel Abeita (Isleta Pueblo) and Michelle Montgomery.

Below is a list of some of the workshops:

- Renewable Energy and the Environment: Bernard Lujan, Luis Zamora, Scott Fields, Michelle Montgomery, Mike Martinez, Luis Archuleta
- Artisans and Art Education: Bernadette Track, Jonathan Warm Day, Philip Martinez, Gary Suazo, and Abel Abeita
- Youth Entrepreneurship Workshop: Linda Bernal-Yardley
The American Indian Teacher Quality Project is a partnership between UNM’s Institute for American Indian Education (IAIE) within the College of Education – Language, Literacy and Sociocultural Studies Department, the UNM Gallup Branch’s Early Childhood Education Department, and Gallup McKinley County Schools. Implemented in January 2007, UNM received funding during the initial report period – October 2008 to September 30, 2009 – and continued to receive funding in the second report period from October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010. Professors Helen Zongolowicz and Glenabah Martinez were the co-principal investigators of the three-year grant. Funded under the auspices of the New Mexico Higher Education Department, the purposes of the project were to:

1. increase the number of American Indian teachers in New Mexico;
2. continue mobilizing the expertise and mentoring services of the Native American faculty at the UNM College of Education;
3. demonstrate effective outreach and recruitment services; and
4. document effective strategies to improve teacher quality and knowledge building for American Indian education, especially as it relates to New Mexico tribal communities.

Of the IAIE Teacher Quality Scholars recruited in 2007, one graduated in December 2007. Six other scholars graduated in 2008 and four more graduated in May 2009. Thus, the two-year program graduated eleven new teachers to serve NM schools with American Indian students. Furthermore, during the second reporting period, 7 additional students have graduated. Thus, a total of 18 new teachers will have graduated as scholars under the American Indian Teacher Quality program to serve American Indian students in NM.

IAIE Program Facts:

Since 2004, over 139 IAIE scholarships have been awarded to Native American students at UNM studying to become teachers. Over 50 recipients of the IAIE scholarships have graduated and are now teaching in New Mexico. Others have graduated and are pursuing a higher degree.