

**Fort Peck Community College Receives Grant From First Nations Development Institute for Language Project**

The First Nations Development Institute of Longmont, Colorado has awarded Fort Peck Community College a Native Youth and Culture Fund grant for its language preservation work. The grant cycle will begin this month and will conclude in May 2015. A seven week summer language program will begin the first phase of the project which begins on Tuesday June, 17th at the Dumont Building in Wolf Point and will end on August 1st. Classes will be Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and is open to all youth ages six on up. This summer, two of the primary objectives will be to provide an apprentice type language setting and to also provide assistance to community elders with yard cleaning, gardening, and other miscellaneous work needed by elders. A fifteen year student who has been with the program since its inception in 2011 will be guided by an adult female and male instructor to provide instruction to other S.L.P. students. The value of generosity will be fulfilled by assisting community elders each week and also by cleaning designated areas throughout the community. Family members are encouraged to volunteer and an evening introduction language course will be offered for parents to help create a family language environment.

The second phase of the grant will begin in September by offering evening gatherings for community members who would like to share and learn more of the language. F.P.C.C. will be attempting to communicate with Canadian Reserves and the Lodgepole, Montana community via its Polycom program (vision-net) to provide speakers, who are separated by distance, an opportunity to visit in their respective language. These gatherings will be provided to the community at no charge and will take place at the Dumont Building in Wolf Point.

This is the fourth summer F.P.C.C. has offered the summer language program. The first summer was partially funded by the First Nations Development Institute with the following summers funded by grants received from the Endangered Language Fund and the National Endowment for Humanities. Donations were also received from the Fort Peck Housing Recreation Department, Center for Native Health Partnerships, and the Safe on All Roads program. Receiving the First Nations grant helps F.P.C.C. uphold its philosophy that it is, "committed to preserving Indian culture, history, and beliefs, and to perpetuating them among the Indian people of all ages." F.P.C.C. would like to thank all those who have donated and helped the past programs. For further questions about the Summer Language Program or the evening gatherings slated for September you can call 768-6300 or 653-3900.

