

BNAS Board Report May 2025

Conference on Indigenous Science and Language

BNAS team members Robert Hall and Kevin Kickingwoman attended the *Conference on Indigenous Science and Language* held in Missoula, Montana, hosted by the Collaborative Language Planning Project (CLPP). This conference provided an opportunity to learn from other tribal language programs, sharing both the challenges and successes they've experienced.

A particularly exciting component of the conference was a hands-on workshop in stop motion animation. In under three hours, participants created a short stop motion video that incorporated Blackfoot vocabulary (a link to this video has been shared via email). This experience provided a tangible skill set that will directly support BNAS's efforts to expand media production focused on Blackfoot language instruction.

this youtube link is referenced in the report

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6el4x3_-LAW

Blackfoot Language Word Lists

Creating comprehensive and accessible resources continues to be a priority for our language program. One major focus is the development of detailed word lists that clearly show the anatomy of the Blackfoot language to support both students and teachers. These lists serve as essential tools for literacy development and are used across instructional levels.

Example is at the end of this report

BNAS Summer 2025 Workshop

The BNAS Summer 2025 Workshop is supported through funding provided by the Montana Indian Language Project (MILP) grant, awarded to the Blackfeet Tribe. Browning Public Schools is utilizing its allocated portion of this grant to host the workshop.

Invitations have been extended to surrounding schools and Blackfeet language educators across the state. The workshop will focus on professional development in the following areas:

- **ASLA (Accelerated Second Language Acquisition)**
- **TPR (Total Physical Response)**
- **Blackfoot Literacy and Linguistics**
- **Oral and Written Language Assessments**

This workshop is a vital component of our continued commitment to high-quality, immersive language instruction. The agenda is attached at the end of this report.

Starlab Investment – Magic Globe Show

The BNAS Department has invested in a new educational resource to enhance student engagement in cultural and scientific learning. We purchased the licensing for **Magic Globe**, a top-rated fulldome video designed for children ages 5–12. This video will be shown in the **Starlab** inflatable planetarium.

Magic Globe tells the story of a young girl who discovers a mysterious astronomical device that affects the balance of the four seasons. The show has received high praise from planetariums and educators for its engaging narrative, visual quality, and educational content. It aligns well with both science and storytelling components of our curriculum.



~ǎ·tsis

Tool, Instrument

Animate

isk o'yipisstǎ·tsis	Spur
sǎpik inǎmǎ·tsis	Button
počtǎ·tsis	Stove
saisāto'yǎ·tsis	Stove-pipe
sǎpikk itoō"sǎ·tsis	Finger Ring
oōmii'k ǎ·tsis	Fishing-pole/ fish-hook
půk ksǎ·tsis	Hammer
sǎppůpissstǎ·tsis	Spear



Agenda

June 16

7:00 - 7:30	Welcoming and Opening Invocation
7:30 - 8:30	Reading and Writing Blackfoot
8:40 - 10:00	ASLA sets 1 and 2, intro to TPR
10:10 - 11:30	Interactive Word Lists Set 1, TPR activities
11:40 - 12:00	Reflections and Discussions
12:30 - 1:50	ASLA set 3
2:00 - 3:00	Interactive Word Lists Set 2, activities
3:10 - 4:10	Interactive Word Lists Set 3, numbers, & colors, TPR activities
4:20 - 5:30	Reflections and Discussions

June 17

7:00 - 7:30	Opening Invocation
7:30 - 8:30	Typing Blackfoot
8:40 - 10:00	ASLA sets 1 and 2 assessment
10:10 - 11:30	ASLA set 4
11:40 - 12:00	Reflections and Discussions
12:00 - 12:30	Lunch
12:30 - 1:50	ASLA set 5
2:00 - 3:00	Interactive Word Lists Set 4 & 5
3:10 - 4:10	Language Assessments
4:20 - 5:30	Reflections and Discussions, Future Work