Ofelia Zepeda was the featured speaker for the Simon Ortiz and Labriola Center Lecture on Indigenous Land, Culture, and Community on Thursday October 11th, 2012 at the Heard Museum in downtown Phoenix. The title of her talk is “Legacies of the Tribal Languages of Arizona: Gifts or Responsibilities?”

Also on October 11th Ofelia Zepeda was on the Arizona State University campus for a reception and informational talk at the Labriola National American Indian Data Center.

Ofelia Zepeda, a Regents’ Professor of Linguistics at the University of Arizona and recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship for her work in American Indian language education, maintenance and recovery, is a member of the Tohono O’odham Nation of southern Arizona, born and raised in Stanfield, Arizona. Her work in linguistics includes the first pedagogical grammar of the Tohono O’odham language, A Tohono O’odham Grammar, as well as other topics on the O’odham language, Native American language shift, language endangerment and documentation.

In addition, Zepeda is a poet with publications in both Tohono O’odham and English. She has three books of poetry, Ocean Power: Poems from the Desert, Jewed I-hoi/Earth Movements and Where Clouds are Formed. In 2009 she collaborated on a public arts project that included engravings of some of her poems on boulders north of the University of Arizona campus. Other public art includes work in Passages at South Mountain Community College Library in South Phoenix.

Zepeda is currently the director of the American Indian Language Development Institute (AILDI), one of the longest running Indigenous language training institutes in the country. She is also the series editor of Sun Tracks, a book series publishing Native American writers at the University of Arizona Press.

“Being able to fully appreciate the richness and uniqueness of languages is a good place to start when considering language efforts for the future.”

— Ofelia Zepeda

http://english.clas.asu.edu/indigenous/
Polytechnic Campus Experience

Arizona State University has many campuses, Tempe campus, Polytechnic campus, West campus, and Downtown campus. They each have different college programs and different culture that make them unique. There is an intercampus shuttle that transports students for free to and from other campuses.

As a student worker in the Labriola Data Center, I try to have the majority of my classes on the Tempe campus, because it’s close to work and easier for scheduling. However, this semester, I have had some of my classes offered at Polytechnic campus. I choose Polytechnic campus, because both of my classes were offered at that campus and are close class times.

When you first enter, the campus looks like it was an Air Force Base which is really exciting to learn about the history of the campus. The atmosphere at Polytechnic is calm with the buildings being sustainable and environmental. The environment is positive, with smaller classes that make it easier to learn, ask questions, and interact.

The advancement of technology that is accessible to students is great such as water bottle fountain filters and solar fans that cool in between buildings.

My experience at Polytechnic Campus has been delightful and productive. I study at the American Indian Student Support Service located in the Polytechnic library. I am involved in One Native Nation club, which is an American Indian club.

This club allowed me to meet new friends that are American Indian from many different nations. We have had welcome events, contest, drawings, meetings, volunteering activities and a barbecue. Each one of us encourages each other’s courses and learning, which makes for a strong support academically.

Going to Polytechnic campus for classes, was my choice and has been an awesome experience. I was able to meet different people, learn differently, and be in a different campus culture. Each campus has something different to offer, this is just my experience at Polytechnic campus at Arizona State University.

Professor Simon Ortiz Donates His Papers to the Labriola Center

Professor Simon Ortiz

The Labriola National American Indian Data Center is very honored and excited to announce that ASU Department of English and American Indian Studies Professor and world renowned writer Simon Ortiz is donating his papers to the Labriola Center in the ASU Libraries. This collection of international significance will be a wonderful research tool for students and faculty around the world researching Indigenous literature.

Professor Ortiz is a poet and writer of Acoma Pueblo heritage. Simon Ortiz’s publications in poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, essay, and children’s literature reflect his literary perspective across a range of his varied, active engagement and involvement in contemporary Indigenous life and literature. (biography from ASU directory)

His publications, research, varied experience and intellectual participation is the basis of his engaging approach to Indigenous literature and its place in the canon of world literatures. (biography from ASU directory)

Professor Ortiz is the founder and coordinator of The Simon Ortiz and Labriola Center Lecture on Indigenous Land, Culture, and Community.
The Legacy of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona

ASU is hosting a panel discussion entitled “The Legacy of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Innovations in Federal-Tribal-State Relations.” The discussion will detail the development of government-to-government relationships among Tribal Nations, the State of Arizona and federal agencies.

Innovative leaders who were actively involved will discuss the ground-breaking developments in the late 1970’s and 1980’s as tribal governments in Arizona began to implement policies and programs facilitated by the passage of the federal Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. The discussion will detail the development of government-to-government relationships among Tribal Nations, the State of Arizona and federal agencies.

The panelists will explore the on-going significance of these innovations and the role of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona in coordinating united tribal government action. (from panel discussion flyer)

Dr. Brown worked closely with the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona in the development of government-to-government relationships among tribes, the State of Arizona and the federal government. As a tribal leader, Veronica Homer was active in the early development of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona. John Lewis guided the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona in supporting tribal governments during this period of dramatic expansion of tribal programs. (from panel discussion flyer)

This event is made possible by a grant from the Arizona Humanities Council and is free and open to the public.

Labriola Center Hosts Two Interns in Fall 2012

The Labriola Center is fortunate to have two interns working for us this semester.

Erica Johnson chose to focus her internship on reference service and processing new items into the Labriola Center’s valuable ephemera collection. Erica has processed newspaper articles, broadsides, conference materials, brochures, and photographs.

Venessa Cancio comes to us from the School of Information Resources and Library Science (SIRLS) program at the University of Arizona. Venessa chose the Labriola Center for her Graduate Assistantship, arranged through a partnership between the Knowledge River Program and the Labriola Center. Knowledge River is a Tucson-based educational experience within the School of Information Resources and Library Science (SIRLS) that focuses on educating information professionals who have experience with and sensitivity to Latino and Native American populations. (http://sirls.arizona.edu/kr/)

The Labriola Center is hosting two interns this semester.
The Labriola National American Indian Data Center was officially dedicated on April 1, 1993. The Center was made possible by the vision of Frank and Mary Labriola, whose generous endowment gift supports its work. It is their wish that “the Labriola Center be a source of education and pride for all Native Americans.”

The Labriola National American Indian Data Center, part of the ASU Libraries, is a research collection international in scope that brings together in one location current and historic information on government, culture, religion and world view, social life and customs, tribal history, and information on individuals from the United States, Canada, Sonora, and Chihuahua, Mexico.

Exhibit: Civil Rights as Agents of Change

Labriola National American Indian Data Center material is featured in a new exhibit produced by the Department of Archives and Special Collections at ASU. This exhibit focuses on Civil Rights legislation such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, leading to the war, labor, and civil rights protests of the later 1960’s and 1970’s.

The Labriola Center’s contribution to the exhibit include books about the American Indian Movement of the 1970’s and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978.

Featured works include A Seat at the Table: Huston Smith in Conversation with Native Americans on Religious Freedom and The American Indian Occupation of Alcatraz Island: Red Power and Self-Determination as well as a poster produced by Fort McDowell Indian Community as a tribute to Harry Austin and Frank Harrison leaders in the cause of American Indian voting rights.

The exhibit will be on display in the Luhrs Gallery & Luhrs Reading Room on the 4th Floor, Hayden Library, ASU Tempe Campus and the First Floor, of the Interdisciplinary B building at the School of Transborder Studies from October 30th 2012—March 1st 2013.