

NATIVE AMERICAN
EMPLOYEE RESOURCE
GROUP

Native American Heritage Month

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Share your favorite recipes and celebration of Native American Heritage Month in our Native American ERG channel in Microsoft Teams! We look forward to hearing from you!

Not a member yet? [Consider joining the Native American ERG !](#)

(Image created by the author using Canva, 2025)



Revitalizing Language Through AI



Artificial intelligence (AI) is emerging as a powerful ally in the revitalization of Native languages—not just for preservation, but for fostering connection, access, and community-led innovation. Jampel (2025) highlights that over one-third of the world’s 6,700 languages face extinction. In response, researchers and developers are creating AI tools that support language learning in culturally responsive ways.

One standout example is Skobot, a wearable AI robot that holds conversations in Anishinaabemowin, the language of the Anishinaabe people (Jampel, 2025). These types of tools offer low-pressure, interactive environments where users can practice speaking and understanding languages through dialogue, storytelling, and everyday conversation. The goal is not just to save languages—but to empower communities to speak them in the digital age.

Saving Cherokee with AI

Artificial intelligence (AI) is emerging as a powerful tool in efforts to preserve and revitalize the Cherokee language—an intricate and endangered Native language spoken by fewer than 140 first-language speakers, most over the age of 60 (Hackett, 2025).

At Tennessee Tech, computer science professor, Jesse Roberts, is collaborating with Cherokee language experts, linguists, and community leaders to create AI tools that do more than record vocabulary—they’re aiming to make AI a conversation partner (Hackett, 2025). Because Cherokee is a polysynthetic language (where words are built from many smaller parts to express full sentences), it presents unique challenges for machine learning. Unlike English, Cherokee lacks vast online datasets to train AI, making every digitized word count (Hackett, 2025).

According to (Hackett, 2025), the project team is working closely with cultural leaders and educators from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to ensure that technology complements—not replaces—traditional language transmission. Future goals include interactive language-learning tools, museum installations, and distance learning platforms that make the Cherokee language more accessible to learners of all ages. This effort signals exciting possibilities—not only for Cherokee but for other languages worldwide.

ERG Community Highlights

Have you published an article, created a presentation, contributed to a cultural event, or launched a creative project? We would love to highlight your work in an upcoming issue of our Native American ERG newsletter. Please feel free to share your work in the Native American ERG Teams Channel.



The Recipe Corner

Celebrate the flavors of fall with a delightful twist from *The Fancy Navajo*. This [Sweet Pumpkin Dip](#) blends cozy spices with creamy texture for a treat that's perfect for gatherings or quiet moments of comfort. Whether you're dipping apples, cookies, or gluten-free crackers, this recipe offers a warm reminder of the joy found in seasonal ingredients and creativity.



References

Jampel, S. (2025, July 31). Can A.I. help revitalize Indigenous languages? Smithsonian Magazine. Retrieved from <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/can-ai-help-revitalize-indigenous-languages-180987060>

Hackett, T . (2025). Tennessee Tech professor uses AI to help preserve Cherokee language. Tennessee Tech University News. <https://www.tntech.edu/news/releases/24-25/tech-professor-uses-ai-to-help-preserve-cherokee-language.php>