

CANDESSA TEHEE, PH.D.

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Education

Ph.D. Anthropology, University of Oklahoma, May 2014

M.Ed. Adult and Higher Education, University of Oklahoma, May 2003

B.A. Native American Studies & Communication, University of Oklahoma, May 2000

Professional Work Experience/Teaching

Assistant Professor of American Indian Studies, Department of Cherokee and Indigenous Studies
Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma

August 2016 – Present

- Conduct undergraduate courses in Cherokee language studies for both the Cherokee Cultural Studies and Cherokee Language Education degree tracks.
- Serve as academic advisor to students
- Serve on college or university committees
- Engage in scholarly activities, and/or creative endeavors which contribute to the academic mission of the University
- Collaborate with American Indian Studies faculty and related interdisciplinary faculty on curriculum development activities
- Supervise independent study activities and off-campus learning
- Render service to the professional or lay community relevant to Cherokee language studies, Cherokee language revitalization, or other related area
- Communicate with tribal and community stakeholders to effectively facilitate opportunities for immersive learning and collaboration

Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, Oklahoma

May 2011 – August 2016

- Executive Director, Cherokee Heritage Center
December 9, 2013 – Present
 - Develops coordinated in-depth operations plan.
 - Works with Cherokee National Historical Society Board of Trustees to implement board policies and directives.
 - Identifies appropriate partners and programs.
 - Develops budget recommendations and administers designated budget.
 - Manages subordinate supervisors and employees for up to 40 total employees.
 - Responsible for the overall direction, coordination, and evaluation of departments in the CHC.
 - Carries out supervisory responsibilities in accordance with the organization's policies and applicable laws.
 - Demonstrates continuous effort to improve operations, decreases turnaround time, streamlines work processes, and works cooperatively and jointly to provide quality seamless customer service.

- Responsibilities include interviewing, hiring, and training employees; assigning and directing work; addressing complaints and resolving problems; rewarding and disciplining employees.
- Manager, Cherokee Language Program
January 4, 2013 – December 8, 2013
 - Supervises the twelve employees and multiple contractors of the Language Technology, Translation and Community Language Programs.
 - Develop and review program goals and objectives.
 - Foster relationships with outside companies, communities, organizations and tribes that benefit the Cherokee community, culture and language.
 - Construct and oversee program budget in compliance with program initiatives.
 - Provides direction and coordination to program staff in fulfilling job duties associated with meeting program goals and objectives.
 - Oversees program operation including planning, management, and a seven figure budget.
 - Integrates and implements Cherokee Immersion classroom technologies.
 - Researches and implements relevant emerging technologies for the continued advancement of the Cherokee community and language programs.
- Clerk III, Education Services
February 3, 2012 – January 3, 2013
 - Responsible for the management, oversight and coordination of project staff and consultants for the 12 oral history interviews, transcription of interview scripts in Cherokee and English, completion of grant objectives and reporting and developing accession plan for archiving of interview materials.
 - The grant “Preserving Iyadvnelidasdi: Transmission of Cherokee Culture, Language and Life Ways” is an oral history project funded through the National Park Service. The grant pairs immersion students and students in the NSU Cherokee Language Degree Program with elders to conduct oral history interviews in the Cherokee language. Grant advised by the Circle of Honored Culture Bearers who determined topics to be included in the interviews. The finished videos will be used as teaching tools for current students and future generations.
 - Responsible for other projects as assigned by Director of Education Services.
- Clerk III, Curriculum and Instruction, Cherokee Nation Immersion School
May 31, 2011 – February 2, 2012
 - Responsible for transcription of Cherokee language materials, setting up Cherokee language books, producing copies of books, setting up requisitions and purchase orders for Curriculum and Instruction, covering front desk as needed, and assisting with intradepartmental presentations on Cherokee language.
 - Taught course to 5th & 6th grade classes at the Cherokee Immersion Charter School on using Cherokee language in technology. Used Oklahoma State Department of Education PASS standards to create classroom curriculum.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology

University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

August 2005 – May 2008 & August 2010 – May 2011

- Fall 2005 – Assigned to Native American Language Department Instructors. Was responsible for general instructional support.

- Spring 2006 – TA for *Language Across Culture*. Responsible for general classroom support including copying course materials, maintaining class attendance records, maintaining records for student grades, grading tests and grading research papers. Hold office hours.
- Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 – TA for *Native Peoples of North America*. Responsible for general classroom support including copying course materials, maintaining class attendance records, maintaining records for student grades, grading tests and grading research papers. Hold office hours.
- Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 – Taught *Native Peoples of North America* as the instructor of record. Provide course syllabus, lectures, and write and evaluate examinations.
- Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 - Teach *Native Peoples of North America* as an online course as the instructor of record. Provide course syllabus, lectures, and write and evaluate examinations.

Graduate Research Assistant

Native American Languages, Sam Noble Museum of Natural History

University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

July 2009 – June 2010

- Assisted with coordination and planning for the first “Breath of Life” Workshop to be conducted at the University of Oklahoma funded by NSF-DEL.
- Responsible for contact with tribal language programs, securing archival materials, arranging lodging and for the smooth preparation and execution of event.
- Serve as Coordinator for the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair. Supervised staff and volunteers for event. Participated in planning sessions for the creation of an updated database to facilitate online registration for the ONAYLF.
- Responsible for other research projects as assigned by Associate Curator of Native American Languages

Graduate Research Assistant

Native American Languages, Sam Noble Museum of Natural History

University of Oklahoma, Norman OK

July 2008 – June 2009.

- Conducted independent research as directed by the Associate Curator of Native American Languages.
- Tasks varied but required motivation and initiative. Required self-discipline and the ability to work unsupervised while continuously making progress toward research goals.
- Serve as Coordinator for the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair. Supervised staff and volunteers for event. The two day event serves as a showcase for the Native American language talents of children from preschool through the twelfth grade. There are nine categories in which awards are presented, over 20 Native American languages are used and tribal programs, community language classes, and public schools and individual participants take part in the event. Over 1,000 people attended both days of the event.

Coordinator, Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair

Sam Noble Museum of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

November 2007 – May 2008

- The two day event served over 1000 students, parents, and teachers.
- Responsibilities included: coordination and supervision of staff and over 50 volunteers for event, distribution of registration packets, maintaining contact with parents, teachers and tribal officials,

ordering t-shirts and trophies, securing speakers for the opening ceremonies for both days, scheduling for both days, printing materials for both days, and a number of other details required for the event.

- Raised \$5,500 for event.

Judge's Liaison, Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair
Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman, Oklahoma
November 2006 – May 2007

- Responsible for contacting Native American language speakers from throughout Oklahoma to serve as judges for the events taking place over two days.
- Compiled database of Native American language speakers and facilitated good relations between speakers and the ONAYLF and SNOMNH.
- Supervised and coordinated over 40 Native American language speakers to serve as judges for the two day event.

Adjunct Instructor, Department of University Studies
East Central University, Ada, Oklahoma
January 2005 – December 2008.

- Responsible for all course material. Provide course syllabus and online content. Write and evaluate examinations.

Adjunct Instructor, Department of History and Political Science
East Central University, Ada, Oklahoma
January 2004 – January 2005.

- Developed two new courses.
- Responsible for grading all course material. Provided syllabus and lectures. Wrote and evaluated examinations.

Assistant Adjunct Instructor, Department of Human Resources
East Central University, Ada, Oklahoma
January 2004 – May 2004.

- Grade all course material. Maintain all online course content. Interact with students and answer questions. Be constantly available for questions regarding course hardware and software requirements.

Program Coordinator, Tribal Police Training Program

- East Central University, Ada, Oklahoma
January 2003 – July 2005
 - Bookkeeping, facilitating purchase orders, and assisting in budget management and planning.
 - Assist in the coordination of training events, including travel arrangements for program personnel and students, securing locations for training, budgeting and recordkeeping for training events.
 - Assist in development of curriculum, selection of instructors, strategic planning for overall program direction, and grant writing and research as necessary.
 - Act as primary point of contact for Indian Country stakeholders and grant officials.

- Began as Administrative Assistant in January 2003 and was promoted to Program Coordinator upon renewal of the cooperative agreement with the USDOJ COPS Office in August 2004.
- Degree Audit Assistant
September 2011 – January 2003
 - Perform Degree Checks for the student population at East Central University.
 - Review Freshman and General Education Seminar Waivers.
 - Provide office support functions.
 - Assist with transcript corrections.
 - Provide basic customer service on a regular basis.

Courses Taught

Advanced Cherokee I
Cherokee Language Practicum I
Clemente Course – Chickasaw Humanities
Cherokee History and Culture
Elementary Cherokee I
Field Experience I
Field Experience II
Interdisciplinary Studies (online)
Introductory Technology for Grades 5 & 6
Native Peoples of North America (classroom and online)
Senior Project

Awards

American Indian Graduate Center Fellowship
Cherokee Nation Higher Education Grant
Dean's Honor Roll – University of Oklahoma
Gammon Family Trust Award – Cherokee Nation Foundation
Marquis Award – Cherokee Nation Foundation
Miss Indian OU 1998-99 – University of Oklahoma
Nell D. Brown Memorial Award – Cherokee Nation Foundation
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
Sooner Heritage Scholarship – University of Oklahoma
Tradition Bearer Award – Cherokee Heritage Center with the Cherokee Nation Translation Department
University of Oklahoma American Indian Alumni Society F. Browning Pipestem Scholarship

Publications

- 2016 “Book Review – The Cherokee Syllabary: Writing the People's Perseverance by Ellen Cushman.” American Indian Quarterly, Vol. 40 (1): Pp. 68-71.
- 2015 “Art Show Review: Return from Exile, Contemporary Southeastern Indian Art.” First American Art Magazine, Issue 9 Winter 2015/2016: Pp. 74-75.
- 2015 “The Cherokee Heritage Center: Balancing Diverse Needs.” Practicing Anthropology, Vol. 37 (3): pp. 45.
- 2010 “The Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair.” Anthropology News, Vol. 51 (8): pp. 41.

Grants Awarded

- 2011 Graduate Student Senate Conference and Creative Exhibition Travel Grant
- 2009 National Congress of American Indians Tribally-Driven Research Travel Grant
- 2009 College of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant
- 2009 Robberson Travel Grant
- 2009 Department of Anthropology Vehik Travel Grant
- 2009 Graduate Student Senate Conference and Creative Exhibition Travel Grant
- 2007 Department of Anthropology Vehik Travel Grant
- 2007 Graduate Student Senate Conference Travel Grant

Art Shows

- 2016 2nd place, Textiles. “**ᏍᏏᏒᏅᏍᏗ.**” Cherokee National Holiday Art Show, September 2-4, 2016, Tahlequah Oklahoma.
- 2016 1st place, Handbuilt Pottery. “**ᏒᏚᏗ.**” Art Under the Oaks Competitive Show at Five Civilized Tribes Museum, April 3, 2016, Muskogee, Oklahoma.
- 2016 2nd place, Textiles. “**ᏍᏏᏒᏅᏍᏗ.**” Art Under the Oaks Competitive Show at Five Civilized Tribes Museum, April 3, 2016, Muskogee, Oklahoma.
- 2015 1st place, Textiles and Weaving. “**ᏓᏞᏚᏗ ᏗᏚᏗᏚᏗ.**” Cherokee National Holiday Art Show, September 4-6, 2015, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
Judge’s Choice Award – Jim Pepper Henry. “**ᏞᏗᏗᏚᏗ.**” Cherokee National Holiday Art Show, September 4-6, 2015, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
- 2015 3rd place, Textiles. “**ᏞᏗᏗᏚᏗ.**” Art Under the Oaks Competitive Show at Five Civilized Tribes Museum, April 6, 2015, Muskogee, Oklahoma.
- 2012 2nd place, Textiles and Weaving. “**ᏗᏚᏗᏚᏗ ᏗᏚᏗᏚᏗ**” Cherokee National Holiday Art Show, August 31-September 2, 2015, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
- 2007 3rd place, 3-D Textiles. “Untitled.” Southeastern Art Show and Market, October 4-6, 2015, Tishomingo, Oklahoma.

Service

- 2014-2016 Student. Cherokee Language Class, Monday and Thursdays during school year, Cherokee Nation Immersion Charter School, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
- 2015 Pottery Class with Jane Osti, June 22-26, 2015, Cherokee Arts Center, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
- 2015 Apprentice, February – March 2015. Cherokee National Treasure Master Apprentice Loom Weaving with Dorothy Dreadfulwater Ice, Cherokee Arts Center, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
- 2012 Treasurer, 2012-2014. Oklahoma Native Language Association.
- 2011 Volunteer. Cherokee Nation Tsunadeloquasdi (Cherokee Language Immersion School)
- 2010 President, 2010-2012. Oklahoma Native Language Association.
- 2010 Student Representative 2010-2012. Association for Indigenous Anthropologists section of the American Anthropological Association.
- 2009 Instructor. Adult Cherokee Language Immersion Course for Employees, Pilot Course, Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
- 2008 Student Representative on Job Search Committee. Department of Anthropology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

- 2008 Invited as student speaker for the Senior Capstone Course in Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.
- 2008 Assisted with digitization of the Newkumet collection. Native American Languages, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman, Oklahoma.
- 2007 Assisted with language education events for the Chepota Chickashsha Anumpoli (Children Speaking Chickasaw) language club. Chickasaw Nation, Ada, Oklahoma.
- 2006 Volunteered as MC and Stage Runner for the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman, Oklahoma.
- 2005 Invited as student speaker for the Senior Capstone Course in Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

Talks, Conference Papers, and Workshops

- 2016 “Explaining Cherokee Language.” Lecture presented at Tahlequah Public Library, September 8, 2016, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
- 2016 “The P.R.I.D.E. Model: Prepare, Retain, Include, Develop, and Engage Native Students at Connors State College.” Lecture presented as part of the Connors State College In-Service Learning, August 11, 2016, Muskogee, Oklahoma.
- 2016 “A Cherokee Art Movement.” Panel discussion with Chris Teuton, Ben Frey, and Roy Boney, Jr. at the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Annual Meeting, May 18-21, 2016, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- 2016 “The Park Hill Cherokee Intelligentsia: Examining the Role of a Cherokee Community in Shaping History.” Paper presented at From Removal to Rebirth: The Cherokee Nation in Indian Territory, Helmerich Center for American Research Symposium at Gilcrease Museum, April 22 & 23, 2016, Tulsa, Oklahoma.
- 2016 “Getting Started with Cherokee Language Learning.” Paper presented at Cherokee Nation Community and Cultural Outreach Lunch and Learn Series, April 21, 2016, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
- 2016 “Using Indigenous Language At Home.” Paper presented at the Northeastern University Symposium of the American Indian and Summit on Southeastern Languages, April 13 & 14, 2016, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
- 2016 Indigenous Perspective on Picturing the Americas: From the Arctic Circle to Tierra del Fuego. Panel discussion with Curator Mindy Besaw, Shan Goshorn, Bobby Martin, and Tony Tiger at Crystal Bridges Museum of Art, January 14, 2016, Bentonville, Arkansas.
- 2015 “Balancing Diverse Needs: Identity and Representation in a Tribal Museum.” Paper presented at American Anthropological Association, November 18-22, 2015, Denver, Colorado.
- 2015 “Cherokee Art and Culture.” Talk presented at Northeastern State University Cherokee Cultural Heritage Class, September 15, 2015, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
- 2015 “The Future Role of Archives, Libraries, and Museums in Preserving and Advancing Indigenous Languages.” Forum discussion moderated at Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums, September 9-12, 2015, Washington, DC.
- 2015 “Overcoming Obstacles: Creating Safe Space for Language Learning and Use.” Paper presented at Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums, September 9-12, 2015, Washington, DC.

- 2015 “Panel: Long-term Strategies for Maintaining Immersion Program Environments.” Panel presentation with Dr. Ofelia Zepeda and Ben Black Bear, Jr with moderator Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald at Native American Languages Summit, From Roots to Results: Celebrating 25 Years of the Native American Languages Act, preconference workshop for Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums, September 10, 2015, Washington, DC.
- 2015 “Understanding Multicultural Society.” Talk presented at Muskogee Public Schools Professional Development for Teachers, August 18, 2015, Muskogee, Oklahoma.
- 2015 “The Negotiation of Speakerhood: Language Identity and the Revitalization of Cherokee.” Paper presented at American Association for Applied Linguistics Annual Conference, March 21-24, 2015, Toronto, Canada with Dr. Lizette Peter
- 2015 “Diversity in the Classroom: Strategies for Teaching.” Panel discussion as part of Northeastern State University Department of Education Student Teacher Training Series, February 6, 2015, Muskogee, Oklahoma with Laura Grisso, Dr. Wayne Johnson, Don Raleigh, and Ashlee Whitehead.
- 2014 “Cultural Tourism, Sacredness, and the Cherokee Heritage Center.” Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, December 2-7, 2014, Washington, DC.
- 2014 “Using Technology for Language Documentation and Revitalization in Digital Domains.” Workshop presented at COLANG 2014: Institute on Collaborative Language Research, June 24-27, Arlington, Texas, with Roy Boney, Jr.
- 2014 “Challenges of Supporting Immersion at Home: A Panel Discussion of Cherokee Immersion School Parents.” Panel discussion at the Revitalizing Endangered Language Conference, April 12-13, 2014, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
- 2014 “Negotiating Speakerhood in Cherokee Nation Language Revitalization.” Paper presented at the Revitalizing Endangered Language Conference, April 12-13, 2014, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
- 2013 “Killing Stereotypes: Assassin’s Creed and Natives in Popular Culture.” Panel discussion as part of the Native American Film Series at the 41st Annual Symposium of the American Indian, April 10 – 13, 2013, Tahlequah, Oklahoma with Michael Sheyashshe, Zachary Barnes, and Roy Boney, Jr.
- 2012 “Practicing Iyadvelidasdi: Bridging the Gap Between Speaker and Learner in Cherokee Nation.” Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 14 – 18, 2012, San Francisco, California.
- 2012 “Preserving Iyadvelidasdi: A Cherokee Oral History Project.” Paper presented at the Oklahoma Native Language Association Annual Meeting and Conference, October 30 – 31, 2012, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
- 2012 “Immersion Basics and Communication Based Curriculum Planning.” Paper presented at the Annual Dhegiha Gathering, July 31 – August 2, 2012, Quapaw, Oklahoma.
- 2012 “Preserving Iyadvelidasdi: Cherokee Lifeways, Traditions, and Language.” Paper presented at the Intertribal Language Summit, May 22 – 24, 2012, Tulsa, Oklahoma.
- 2011 “Status Updates and Sequoyah’s Legacy: Building Digital Communities in Cherokee Nation.” Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 16-20, 2011, Montreal, Canada.
- 2011 Instructor for workshop “Immersion A-Z: Essential Basics for Language Immersion Programs,” at the Consortium of Indigenous Language Organizations Conference, June 29 – July 1, 2011, Tucson, Arizona with Richard Bugbee, Jennie DeGroat, Leanne Hinton, Sheilah Nicholas, Andrea Ramon, Stanley Rodriguez, Lucille Watahomigie &

- Ofelia Zepeda. Provided Instruction on Daycare and Preschool Immersion as an individual breakout session.
- 2011 “Documenting Cherokee Vowel Length and Tone: A Roundtable Discussion,” presented at the Oklahoma Native Language Association Annual Meeting, October 20-21, 2011, Ada, Oklahoma with Wyman Kirk, Ryan Mackey and Dylan Herrick.
- 2011 “Finding Our Way: Language Documentation and Teacher Training through the Oklahoma Native Language Association.” Paper presented at the International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation, February 11 – 13, 2011, Honolulu, Hawaii with Dr. Mary S. Linn.
- 2010 “American Indian Scholarship and Ethnographic Representation.” Paper presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 17 – 21, 2010, New Orleans, Louisiana as part of Invited Session titled, “Native Voices, Disciplined Practices, Self-Determination in Ethnographic Representation by American Indian Anthropologists Past and Present.”
- 2009 “Arguments for In/Exclusion: Implications of the Question of Cherokee Nation Citizenship.” Paper presented at the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Meeting, May 21 – 23, 2009, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- 2009 “The Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair: Strengthening Bonds, Reinforcing Learning, Highlighting Achievements.” Workshop presented at the Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Symposium, April 30 – May 2, 2009, Phoenix, Arizona with Dr. Mary S. Linn.
- 2007 “Cherokee Folklore: Locating Constructions of Identity.” Paper presented at the Native American Literature Symposium, March 8 – 10, 2007, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.
- 2007 “Sequoyah’s Legacy: The Cherokee Syllabary as Learning Tool.” Paper presented at What’s Next for Native American and Indigenous Studies? An International Scholarly Meeting, May 3 – 5, 2007, Norman, OK. Coordinated and proposed the panel “Contemporary Issues in Cherokee Language Education” where paper was presented.
- 2007 “Our Cherokee Language: Thriving at Statehood, Surviving at Centennial.” Invited paper presented at Cherokee Nation State of Sequoyah Conference, August 30 – 31, 2007, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
- 2007 “English-First Movements in Oklahoma and their Impact on Native Languages.” Paper Presented at the Oklahoma Native Language Association Annual Preston Conference, October 11 – 13, 2007, Preston, OK.
- 2007 “Speaking on the Centennial: Statehood, Citizenship, and English Only Laws in “Native America.” Paper Presented at American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 28 – December 2, 2007, Washington, D.C.
- 2006 “The Native American Princess: An Intersection of Race, Gender and Culture.” Paper Presented at the Plains Anthropological Society Meeting, November 8 – 11, 2006, Topeka, Kansas.

Professional Organizations

Oklahoma Native Language Association – Treasurer
Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas
American Anthropological Association
Association for Indigenous Anthropologists AAA Section
Society for the Anthropology of North America
Native American and Indigenous Studies Association

CANDESSA TEHEE

Southeastern Indian Artists Association

Cherokee Language

Fluent Speaker. Cherokee Nation Employee Speaker Evaluation.