



MEDIA RELEASE

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Sharing Language and Cultural Resources: Inaugural Lushootseed Conference May 1st

Lushootseed Research is proud to present its inaugural conference on Saturday May 1, 2010 at Seattle University. The purpose of this conference is to bring Lushootseed tribal language programs together to provide a venue for networking and exchanging language resources, and to honor the work of Vi Hilbert, Upper Skagit tribal member and Thom Hess, Ph.D., in preserving the Lushootseed language. In the spirit of Vi Hilbert's philosophy, the theme for the conference is "Sharing Language and Cultural Resources."

Lushootseed, also known as Puget Salish, is the Native American language spoken in much of the Puget Sound region. It is a member of the Salishan language family. Many tribal communities are working hard to preserve and stabilize the Lushootseed language, through programs that develop language instructors to teach youth and adults in their own communities, create instructional materials, and provide archives for research.

Lushootseed Research is a nonprofit organization founded by Vi Hilbert in 1983. Vi's granddaughter, Jill La Pointe, serves as the director of Lushootseed Research. Jill explains, "I am fortunate to have witnessed my grandmother's passion, dedication and commitment to her work. Vi's goal was to research, gather, record, translate, transcribe, archive and disseminate as much information as she could in order to preserve the Lushootseed language and culture. Her efforts touched thousands of people from the Northwest and around the world."

Although Vi Hilbert passed away in December 2008, her legacy continues. Lushootseed Research remains active and committed to carrying on her work. The Lushootseed Conference will provide an opportunity for tribes to share their programs and resources with one another and strengthen connections between the tribes as well as educational institutions.

The conference will be hosted by Seattle University, and co-sponsored by the Northwest Indian College. More information about the Inaugural Lushootseed Language Conference including registration forms may be found at www.lushootseed.org. For information about conference registration, contact Nadeen Jimmy at Northwest Indian College, (360) 392-4252 or njimmy@nwic.edu.

Advance registration (through April 23rd) is \$40, at the door is \$50, students and elders are \$20. Resource tables are available for tribal language programs, museums and nonprofit organizations to share language materials. To reserve a table, or for general information about the conference, contact Jill La Pointe at Lushootseed Research, (360) 770-3993 or jill@lushootseed.org.

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Lushootseed Research is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation established in 1983 by Upper Skagit elder Vi Hilbert, to promote and provide research support for the Lushootseed language and literature. The organization is dedicated to sustaining Lushootseed language and culture to enhance cross-cultural knowledge, wisdom and relations, as shared and celebrated by the First Peoples of Puget Sound, through research, recording, publishing and the presentation of oral traditions and literature. For more information, visit www.lushootseed.org