



Cherokee Language Teacher Training Program 2021

Program Overview

The Cherokee Language Teacher Training Program is designed to create certified Cherokee language teachers. Applicants must be attending Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK pursuing a bachelor's degree in education and an Oklahoma state teaching certification in elementary education, early childhood education, or Cherokee language. After completing the first academic year of the Program, the students will sign a contract committing their services after graduation to the Cherokee Immersion Charter School or at one of the Cherokee Nation's cooperative satellite programs in public schools in the fourteen county-area.

A Selection Committee consisting of Cherokee Language Program & Cherokee Immersion Charter School staff will choose scholarship recipients. The awardees must demonstrate some knowledge of the Cherokee language upon application. In addition to attending their classes at Northeastern State University, the students will spend a total of 15 hours per week in the Program. This includes scheduled time in classrooms with teachers and students at the Cherokee Immersion Charter School, formal instructional time with Cherokee Language Program staff at Cherokee Nation, and other Cherokee Nation language related events. Upon successful completion of the Cherokee Language Teacher Training Program and receiving a degree in education at Northeastern State University, these students will have the necessary skills to be Cherokee language teachers in a classroom setting.

Should you have any questions about the scholarship, please contact the Cherokee Nation Language Program -

Raven Bruner Phone: 918-453-5000 ext. 5410

Email: raven-bruner@cherokee.org

Roy Boney, Jr. Phone: 918-453-5000 ext. 5487

Email: roy-boney@cherokee.org

Criteria

- Must demonstrate some conversational Cherokee language:
 - Ability to have a basic conversation in Cherokee
 - Fluency will be increased by Program participation
- Must have a strong desire to speak Cherokee and a passion for the language
- Must have a strong desire to teach and work with children
- Must be a Cherokee Nation Citizen
- Must be a student at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK.
- Must enroll as a full time student (12 credit hours minimum)
- Must reside in the contiguous fourteen county jurisdictional area of the Cherokee Nation. Proof of residency required. (See attached map.)
- Must submit official transcripts at the end of each semester.
- Must understand participation in the program is a contractual, long-term commitment.
- Must be organized, creative, & flexible.
- Employees of Cherokee Nation and its entities are not eligible.

Scholarship Award

- Tuition (Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, OK in-state)
- Required books

- Degree program required fees
- Housing allowance up to \$2,100 per semester (to be paid by midterm)
- Laptop to be provided (subject to equipment loan agreement)

Application Process

- Applicants will be required to write an essay between 500 to 1,000 words about why they want to participate in the program.
- Application will require test scores:
 - ACT (or equivalent; waiver discussed on case by case basis)
 - Cherokee Language Proficiency Test and/or Certification from Cherokee Language Program (testing can be scheduled by calling Anna Sixkiller at 918-453-5145 or by emailing language@cherokee.org).
- Official high school and/or college transcript
- *Résumé*/Related work history
- Applicants are required to submit correctly filled-in and complete applications by June 15, 2021 5pm Central Standard Time. Applications can be sent by email, delivered in person, or mailed (must be postmarked by deadline date). Scholarship will begin for the Fall 2021 term.
- Applications incorrectly filled-in or incomplete will not be considered.
- Applicants will be interviewed by Selection Committee to demonstrate some knowledge of Cherokee language.
- Applicants must agree to a full background check as part of application process.

Selection Process

- Selection Committee will consist of selected staff from the Cherokee Language Program and the Cherokee Nation Immersion Charter School.
- Participant selection will be based on a combination of factors and attributes, including knowledge of Cherokee language, enthusiasm for the Cherokee language, ability to complete long term goals and tasks, and relevant experience (for example, specific involvement and leadership in a tribal community, volunteer service, related job history, and other extra curricular activities related to Cherokee language, etc.).
- **Decisions made by the Selection Committee will be final.**

Participant Requirements

- Participants will be required to work a total of fifteen (15) hours per week in the program. This includes scheduled time in classrooms at the Cherokee Nation Immersion Charter School, formal instructional time with Cherokee Language Program staff at Cherokee Nation, and Cherokee Nation language related events.
- The participants will have one academic year as a Trial Period to decide if they want to continue with the program. If participants agree to continue after the Trial Period, they will be required to sign a contract stating that upon graduation they will commit to services at the Cherokee Nation Immersion Charter School or at one of the Cherokee Nation's cooperative satellite programs in public schools around the fourteen counties.
- Failure to fulfill the terms set forth in the contract will result in participants having to repay the scholarship amount incurred after the Trial Period (extenuating circumstances will be judged on a case by case basis).
- Two (2) times per semester, participants will be tested to demonstrate improvement of Cherokee language skills to the Selection Panel.
 - If sufficient improvement is not demonstrated via test results, counseling for participants will be given to alter study habits, work conditions, etc. to increase Cherokee proficiency.
 - If after counseling, sufficient improvement is not demonstrated, participants will forfeit further program participation and will be under no further obligation to the Program.
 - Tests will be developed by Cherokee Language Program and Cherokee Immersion Charter School staff.
- Participants will help develop classroom materials for Immersion students, including curriculum and lesson plans.

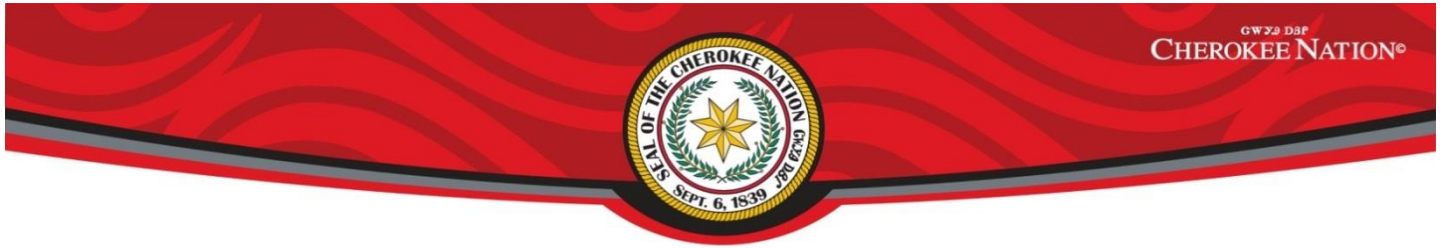
Cherokee Language Program Responsibilities

- Creation of a guided curriculum for participants which will aid them in developing the necessary Cherokee language skills needed to converse and eventually teach in a Cherokee language classroom setting.
- Provide supervision, mentorship and assistance to the participants as they learn Cherokee:

- Selected staff will schedule time to meet with participants regularly, including exclusive Cherokee Conversation time.
- Provide training and tech support for Cherokee language technology including fonts, keyboard layouts, and software support.

Cherokee Nation Immersion Charter School Responsibilities

- Provide supervision, mentorship, and assistance to the participants as they learn Cherokee.
- Help develop guided curriculum so it fits the needs of the participants and the needs of the Cherokee Immersion Charter School.
- Help participants learn appropriate vocabulary for classroom use and interaction.
- Immersion Staff will work with the participants as partners in the Immersion students' education.



Cherokee Language Teacher Training Program Application

Please Write Legibly
Submit This Form with the Required Documents

Required Documents:

- *Résumé*
- Proof of current or upcoming enrollment at Northeastern State University (acceptance letter and class schedule)
- Proof of residency in the contiguous 14-county Cherokee Nation jurisdictional area (such as copy of utility bill, current government issued ID, etc.). See attached map.
- Copy of ACT Scores
- Copy of Language Proficiency Test and/or Certification from Cherokee Language Program (testing for these can be scheduled by calling 918-453-5145 or email language@cherokee.org).
- Copy of Social Security Card
- Copy of Tribal Citizenship Card
- 3 Letters of Recommendation (from teachers, employers, community leaders, etc.)

Personal Information

Name _____
Last First M.I.

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Alternate Contact 1 (Family member, friend, etc.)

Name _____
Last First M.I.

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone_____

Alternate Contact 2 (Family member, friend, etc.)

Name_____

Last

First

M.I.

Mailing Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Phone_____

Educational Information

Name of University_____

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Contact at University_____

Email_____Phone_____

Degree Seeking_____

Major Area of Study_____

Expected Date of Graduation_____

Approved Degree Plan on File with Advisor?_____Yes_____No

Name of Advisor_____

Advisor's Phone_____Advisor's Email_____

Please provide your answers to the following typed on additional sheets.

- **What kind of involvement and leadership roles do you have in a Cherokee Community?** – Provide a brief explanation of your involvement in a Cherokee Community, including examples of leadership and excellence in extra-curricular activities especially pertaining to Cherokee language.
- **Provide faculty, employer, and/or tribal recommendations** – Submit 3 letters of reference. Applicants are partially rated according to recommendations regarding the applicant’s potential.
- **Write an essay of reasons you are for applying to the Program** – Write an essay between 500 to 1,000 words explaining what the Cherokee language means to you and why you are applying for this program. State how your participation and completion of this program will help meet the needs of the Cherokee Nation and its Cherokee Language Revitalization efforts.

Cherokee Language Proficiency Self Evaluation – In addition to an oral interview with Cherokee speakers, your level of Cherokee language proficiency will be taken into consideration. Please rate your skill level of Cherokee language proficiency with 1 being the lowest to 10 being the highest.

Speaking Cherokee: _____

Reading Syllabary: _____

Writing Syllabary: _____

Applicant Certification

My signature certifies that I am a Cherokee Nation citizen and a U.S. permanent resident. It also certifies that this application contains no falsification, and that the information provided is true and correct. I understand that any false statement made herein would result in a voided application. I hereby authorize the release of all information contained in this application, including agreeing to a background check, for eligibility for this scholarship.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Deadline: Must be received by June 15, 2021 by 5:00pm Central Standard Time

Please submit by one of the following:

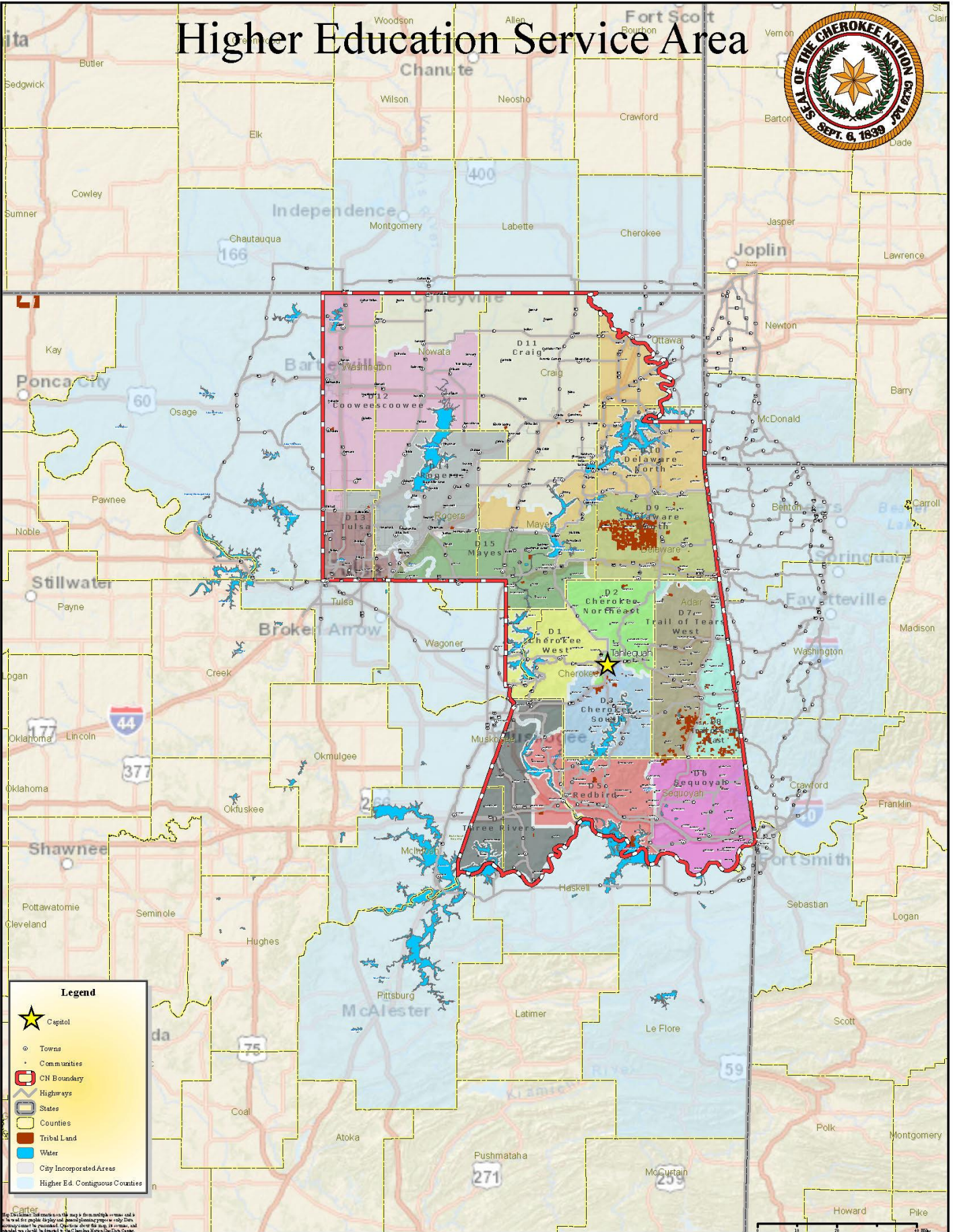
Certified Mail: Cherokee Nation Language, Attn: Cherokee Language Teacher Training Program, PO Box 948, Tahlequah, OK 74465

Hand Deliver: 17675 S. Muskogee Ave, Tahlequah, OK to the Cherokee Language Program Office located in the Cherokee Nation tribal complex

Email: language@cherokee.org

PROGRAM CONTINUATION SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS ANNUALLY

Higher Education Service Area



Legend

- ★ Capital
- Towns
- Communities
- ▭ CN Boundary
- ▭ Highways
- ▭ States
- ▭ Counties
- ▭ Tribal Land
- ▭ Water
- ▭ City Incorporated Areas
- ▭ Higher Ed. Contiguous Counties

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