

DATE

Dear XXXXX,



THE UNIVERSITY
OF TEXAS
AT ARLINGTON

Department of
Linguistics and
TESOL
Teaching English to
Speakers of Other
Languages

Box 19559
Hammond Hall 132
Arlington, TX
76019-0559

T 817.272.3133
F 817.272.9360

I am writing to invite you to participate at CoLang 2014: Institute on Collaborative Language Research, scheduled for June 16-25, 2014 with the field methods practicum following on June 30-July 25, 2014. As you know, CoLang (formerly InField) is the premier training venue for language documentation and revitalization in North America. Important recognition of this role has come in the recent decision of the Linguistic Society of America (the major professional organization of linguists in the U.S.) to sponsor CoLang 2014.

CoLang is perhaps unique among linguistics training institutes in how it draws in a unique set of participants coming from indigenous communities in the U.S. and beyond, undergraduate and graduate students, and faculty, both junior and senior. CoLang will bring together current and future practitioners for two weeks of intensive discussion and training, which will involve the exchange of information and the advancement of understanding by all attending. This synthesis of knowledge, practice, and perspective moves our field forward. The development of collaborative skills and culture among researchers is important. Traditionally researchers in humanities, linguists included, work individually and lack skills for collaborative work. CoLang offers a unique opportunity to foster collaborative culture and help people develop the necessary social and technological skills to work collaboratively.

The Institute's success is already palpable: it has been held three times, and attendees have mobilized their experiences as participants and instructors into establishing documentation and revitalization projects in the United States, Canada, and abroad. The broad set of workshop offerings is also influencing established institutes such as AILDI to help them better serve their participants. Moreover, the Institute is drawing in participants not originally part of the intended audience, such as undergraduate students and non-traditional students/participants from disciplines other than linguistics and allied fields. This interest is due to the successes of the previous three Institutes, the continuing high demand for such training, and the continued interest in the broader public in endangered languages.

I hope that you are able to attend CoLang 2014. If there is anything else I can provide, please contact me at uta2014institute@gmail.com for further information.

Sincerely,