

SHORT BIO

Ryan Wilson

Ryan Wilson (Tatanka Wasake') Oglala Lakota is from the number 4 community on the Pine Ridge Reservation and currently resides in New Town ND. He is the founder and President of the National Alliance to Save Native Languages

During his 4 terms of leadership on the National Indian Education Association he was instrumental in securing passage of key legislative victories that fundamentally changed the federal government's investment in "culturally based education" mainly Immersion Schools and Native Language Programs.

This started with the historic passage of the Esther Martinez Native Languages Preservation Act of 2006. Continued with Immersion Provisions in the 2015 Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and Bureau of Indian Education Immersion Appropriations special initiative. Culminating a 20 year effort to secure vital resources in the Health and Human Services Department, Department of Education and Department of Interior for Native language development and Immersion schools.

Today as the co- chair of the National Congress of American Indians Native Language Task Force he is here to raise awareness of an unprecedented federal Initiative lead by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to develop and fund a tribally driven 10 year plan for Native Language Revitalization.