

BioDATA

Dr. OCTAVIANA VALENZUELA TRUJILLO (Yaqui)

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Dr. Trujillo has worked over the past thirty years in the area of educational programme development for minority and multicultural populations, particularly indigenous people. In 1991, she received her doctorate in Indigenous Language Policy and Planning from Arizona State University. Her studies have been augmented through academic activities, such as a Fulbright Fellowship in India; attending the Instituto Cultural de Guanajuato in Mexico; participating in the 17th study session of the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France; and fellowship study at the Salzburg (Austria) Seminar, Race and Ethnicity: Models of Diversity. Dr. Trujillo has been the recipient of a number of academic research awards including a Newberry Library Scholarship for research at the D'Arcy McNickle Center for the History of the American Indian. Dr. Trujillo was the founding Director of the American Indian Graduate Center at the University of Arizona where she also served as Assistant Professor in the Department of Language, Reading and Culture. During the tenure of Dr. Trujillo's leadership as chairwoman of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, she established the first department of education and contributed to the establishment of the first Indian Gaming Compact in Arizona. A highlight of her administration was the granting of federal recognition of the historic status of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. A primary focus of her work as a tribal leader has been developing programmes that utilized her academic and professional experience with women and families in the urbanization of indigenous communities. She has served at Arizona State University as Director of the Center for Indian Education and as editor of the Journal of American Indian Education. She was the principal investigator of the US Department of Education funded research project, Native Educators: Interface with Culture and Languages in Schooling, and Arizona Intertribal-Postsecondary Institutional Network. Through her leadership, educational policy was developed by tribal nations to promote the sovereignty of education. Dr. Trujillo's work on Yaqui ethnohistory and language policy has produced work in three languages and numerous publications. Dr. Trujillo currently serves as Professor of the Applied Indigenous Studies Department at Northern Arizona University. Dr. Trujillo continues to serve as a consultant to the US Department of State, Fulbright Program on Indigenous Peoples' human rights and leadership development.