

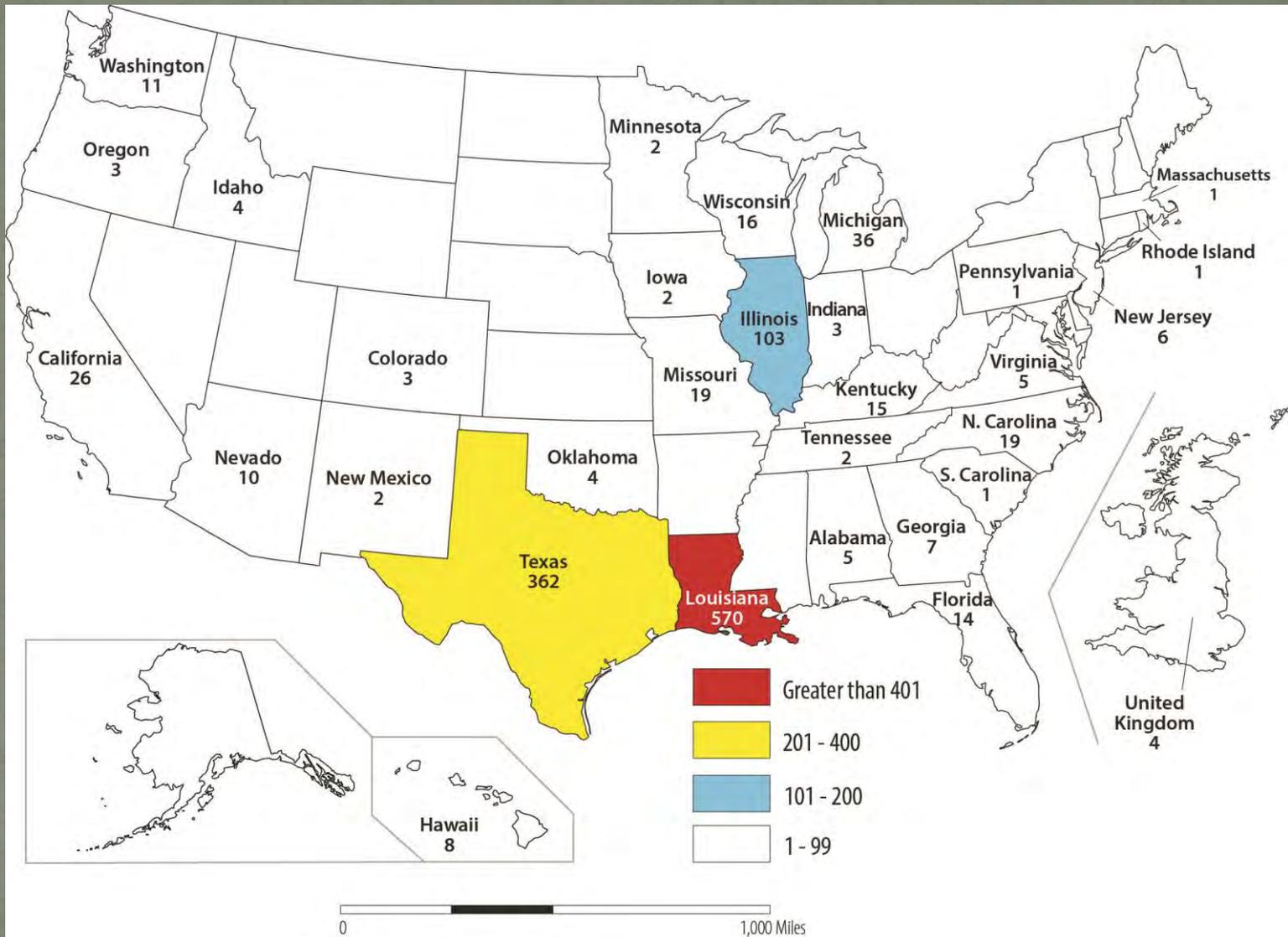
# Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana Youth Programs



# Tunica-Biloxi Tribe Information

- Reservation in Marksville, Louisiana
- 1,605 on Tribal Roll
  - Louisiana – 45%
  - Texas – 29%
  - Illinois – 8%
  - Other – 18%
- Federal Acknowledgement – September 1981

# Tunica-Biloxi Population Map (2015)



# Cultural Identity & Academic Performance

“Numerous cultural forces connect to children’s school experiences and academic achievement. These include parental beliefs, socialization practices, and cultural worldviews. Cultural values, practices, and ways of learning at home both shape and connect to children’s formal school experiences.”

Robyn M. Holmes

Professor of Psychology

Monmouth University



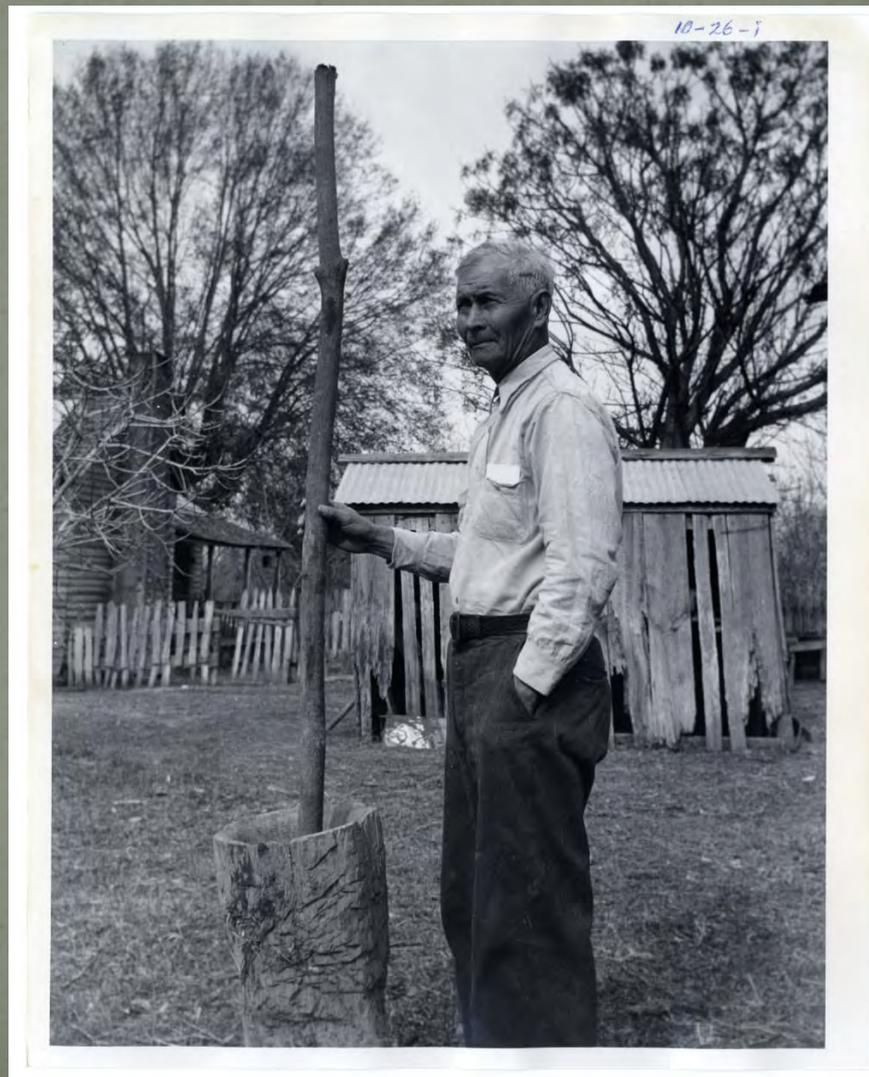
## Volsin Chiki

A Tunica chief (1900-11) who helped revive traditional language, songs and material culture.

Sesostrie Youchigant in  
Tunica-Biloxi stickball regalia  
(1939)



Hilaire "Eli" Barbry standing with corn  
mortar and pestle, a traditional method  
of grinding corn. (ca. 1940).





Chief Joseph Alcide Pierite was a political and cultural leader of the Tunica-Biloxi in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century



Lula Cryer  
Rosa Pierite



Tunica-Biloxi pine needle baskets

# Language & Culture Revitalization Program

Provides structural support for language and culture education.

- **Goal** – Develop a robust and sustainable program for training and perpetuating heritage languages, history and culture.
  - **Objective 1** – Increase the number of Tunica speakers and teachers.
  - **Objective 2** – Develop language foundational resources including linguistic texts, manuals, curricula, and pedagogical materials.
  - **Objective 3** – Facilitate language classes and cultural activities for the community.



Sesostrie Youchigant  
Spoke French, Tunica and English



Mary Haas  
Yale University

Mary Haas collected and documented a large amount of Tunica language information between 1933 and 1939 in Marksville.

Sesostrie was the only known fluent Tunica speaker that Haas encountered noting that she met 3 or 4 others who knew a few isolated Tunica words and phrases. Sesostrie passed away in 1948.

# Tunica language class



On International Mother Language Day, February 21, 2017, the 20th edition of the Ethnologue changed designation of the Tunica language from “dormant” to “reawakening.”

The screenshot shows the Ethnologue website interface. At the top, the logo "Ethnologue Languages of the World" is on the left, and navigation links for "Login", "Shopping Cart", and a search bar "Find a language or country..." are on the right. Below the logo, there are links for "Languages", "Countries", "Products", "Subscribe", and "About". The main heading is "Tunica" with a "Print" icon. Below the heading are three buttons: "LANGUAGE", "MAP", and "FEEDBACK". The main content area is titled "A language of United States" and contains a table with the following information:

<b>ISO 639-3</b>	<a href="#">tun</a>
<b>Population</b>	32, all users. L1 users: No known L1 speakers (2000), but emerging L2 speakers. The last known native speaker, Sesostrie Youchigant (aka Sam Young), died in 1948 (1964 M. Haas). L2 users: 32 (2017 J. Maxwell).
<b>Location</b>	Louisiana: north central.
<b>Language Status</b>	9 (Reawakening). Language of registered tribe: Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe of Louisiana.
<b>Classification</b>	<a href="#">Language isolate</a>
<b>Language Development</b>	Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. The Tunica Language Revitalization Project has organized language immersion summer camps for youth and immersion workshops for adults and for teens. There is also a weekly after-school program during the school year and have online classes for the extended community (2017 J. Maxwell). Agency: Tunica-Biloxi Language and Culture Revitalization Program.

On the right side of the page, there is a "PLACE IN LANGUAGE CLOUD" section with a scatter plot of L1 Population vs. EGDG Level. Below the plot is a "Click to enlarge with explanation" link. Further down is a "JOIN THE CONVERSATION" section with a link to "Create a free account to post Feedback about a country or language and be notified when others do the same."

ews Left: 3

# The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe Its Culture and People

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

Edited by Brian Klopotek, John D. Barbry, Donna M. Pierite, and Elisabeth Pierite-Mora



## ROWINATAWORU LUHCHI YORONI TUNICA LANGUAGE TEXTBOOK



KUHPANI YOYANI LUHCHI YORONI  
THE TUNICA LANGUAGE WORKING GROUP



Casiano Family  
participating in  
basketry workshop

Elisabeth, Lelani,  
and Ms. Nan  
MacDonald working  
on split river cane  
basket



# Story Time Cemonia Strother Williams Library & Research Center





Tunica-Biloxi ladies at annual Pow Wow (Nihkirhipu).

Tunica-Biloxi youth playing stickball (punatarahpani)



## Tunica Language & Culture Youth Camp – Preparing for Family Night



Teaching green  
corn ceremony  
to children at  
language &  
culture camp



# Language & Culture Camp

CHAIRMAN EARL J. BARBRY SR.



# Education Department

Provides educational services for Tunica-Biloxi Youth (K-12) regardless of residence.

- Goal 1: Improve student academic performance by increasing educational choices from a comprehensive pool of culturally appropriate educational services and service providers.
- Goal 2: Increase educational choice for parents by providing a comprehensive pool of culturally appropriate educational services and service providers.
- Goal 3: Support youth with disabilities (i.e., mental, physical, & substance abuse) in overcoming barriers to educational attainment and improving the academic performance of students.

*The TBED is funded by a 5-year US DOE ACE Demonstration Grant.*

# Education Services

- ❖ Activities – Academic & Cultural Enrichment Workshops; Coaching & Mentoring; College/Career Preparedness
- ❖ Tours – Academic & Cultural Enrichment Fieldtrips
- ❖ Tutoring – In-person & Virtual
- ❖ Supplemental Education Supports – Assessments, Technology, Transportation
- ❖ Special Needs – Health Accommodations

*215 Tunica-Biloxi Students in 2022-23 Grant Year*



# TBED BOOK SIGNING

## Saturday, April 1, 2023

Time: 10am CT

Location: Tunica-Biloxi CERC Building

The below authors attended a series of TBED Summer Writing Workshops in June and July of 2022. They worked diligently to produce a published original story. Please join us for their very first

-----Book Signing-----

### Meet the Authors



**LeMari Pierite**  
The Magical Dog



**Jagger Davis**  
The Tales of Jack Russell



**Raven Hill**  
The Red Velvet Curtains



**Faren Hill**  
The Only One



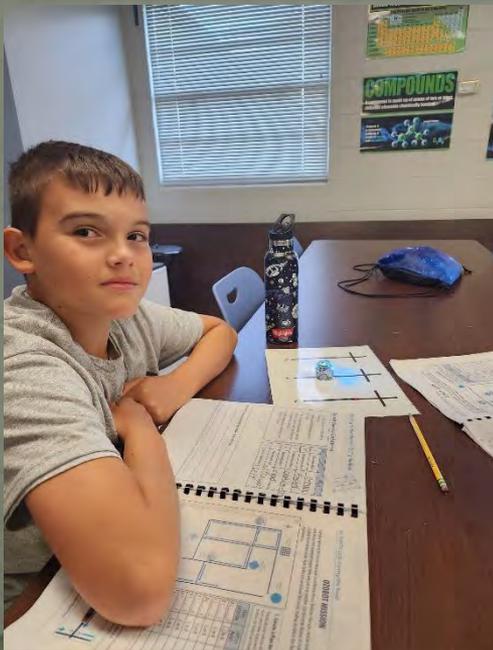
**Alijah Augustine**  
Warrior

—PARTNERED WITH TUNICA-BILOXI LCRP's—

# SATURDAY STORYTIME

## CELEBRATING EARTH DAY





# Scholarship Program: 2022 Overview

Applications approved - 129

Total amount disbursed - \$473,785.63

- 106 applicants were awarded \$4,000
- 23 applicants were awarded in total of \$49,785.63\*

\*Awards differ depending on the type of enrollment

# Support Departments

- ❖ Social Services
  - ❖ Case Management
  - ❖ Vocational Rehabilitation
  - ❖ Alcohol & Substance Abuse Program
- ❖ Health Department & Clinic
- ❖ Recreation Department
- ❖ Tribal Police
- ❖ Housing Department

# Considerations for Youth Programs

- ✓ Develop youth programming that reinforces cultural identity
- ✓ Emphasize community involvement among tribal youth
- ✓ Encourage relationship building between the youth and elders of the community
- ✓ Build awareness and participation in language and culture activities
- ✓ Support and promote the work of culture bearers and teachers in the community
- ✓ Make education and cultural preservation funding a priority