South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations

Issue # 5 June 2015

Governor Daugaard & Secretaries Emery, Lentsch, & Hepler meet with the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate. Leadership. Photos Courtesy Sota Iya Ye Yapi News.

From Secretary Emery

It is unbelievable that June is already upon us! It seems like we were just in legislative session, and now we are reaching the end of our fiscal year. The Department remains busy and we look forward to traveling this summer. When the sun is shining, it is hard to stay in an office!

During this last month, I had the great pleasure of traveling with my fellow Secretaries to the Standing Rock Reservation and an incredible Governor's Visit with the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate. In both places, my fellow State officials and I were shown incredible hospitality and had a meaningful opportunity to learn more about the Tribal Nations and their members. It is wonderful to again recognize those things we have in common like our love of our small town communities, pride in our children's' achievements, and the desire to make positive change. I look forward to working with these partners throughout this coming summer.

Governor Dennis Daugaard & Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Chairman Bruce Renville

Joe Fiala & Ag Secy. Lentsch, SRST Councilman Ron Brownotter, Adjutant General Tim Reisch, DTR Secy.Emery & Ag's Dave Skaggs visit Standing Rock.

Jesse Chanku, US Army – Dewayne Boyd, US Army – Geri Opsal, USAF present a star quilt to Governor Daugaard .

We want people like you!

The South Dakota Highway Patrol will be accepting applications for the next hiring process beginning July 6, 2015. The application process will close August 24, 2015. There are multiple open duties stations throughout the state. We are planning on hiring a class of 15-20 new recruits.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol offers competitive wages, paid training, career development tracks, opportunities for advancement, excellent benefits, state retirement, and an independent working environment.

All uniforms and state of the art equipment are paid for by the South Dakota Highway Patrol. Each Trooper is also assigned their own take home patrol car.

The selection process involves: (1) application; (2) written test; (3) panel interview and physical testing; (4) background investigation and medical examination; (5) second panel interview and drug screening; and (6) polygraph exam.

Recruits, who are not currently certified in SD or another state, must first attend the 13 week SD Law Enforcement Training Academy in Pierre. The second part of the training is the South Dakota Highway Patrol Recruit Academy. This also takes place in Pierre and is 10 weeks in duration. The final phase of training is the field training process. This lasts for 10 weeks. Recruits are assigned to work with veteran troopers across the state.

During the academy recruits will receive training in patrol procedures, policy and procedures, motor vehicle and criminal code, criminal investigation, physical fitness, public education/relations, chemical and less lethal munitions, drug interdiction, firearms, DUI enforcement and drug impaired driving, emergency vehicle operations, cultural diversity, search and seizure, crash investigation, defensive tactics, leadership training, and motor carrier enforcement.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is a forward thinking law enforcement agency. If you are looking for an honorable career and a great working atmosphere, look no further. We are looking for highly motivated individuals who are service orientated and interested in making a difference in South Dakota and serving their community. If you think you have what it takes, please check out the following links.

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Below is the link to the BHR website that explains all the requirements and steps to apply for the Highway Patrol.

http://bhr.sd.gov/workforus/law/hp/default.aspx

Testing locations can be found at:

http://bhr.sd.gov/workforus/law/hp/testinglocations.aspx

Minimum qualifications can be found at:

http://bhr.sd.gov/workforus/law/hp/purpose.aspx

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter at:

http://www.facebook.com/SDHighwayPatrol

https://twitter.com/SDHighwayPatrol

If you have additional questions regarding minimum requirements, testing locations, the application process, or the training process, please contact our Training Division.

Lieutenant Randi Erickson
South Dakota Highway Patrol
Director of Training and Professional Standards Division
605-773-2231
randi.erickson@state.sd.us

South Dakota Department of Transportation
Transportation Alternatives Program

In early June, the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) will be issuing a call for Letters of Intent for Transportation Alternatives Program funds, the first step in the application process. The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a relatively new grant program that uses federal transportation funds, designated by Congress, for specific activities that enhance the multimodal transportation system and provide safe, primarily non-motorized alternative transportation options.

In recent years, many Tribal Governments have applied for and maybe even received funding under the Safe Routes to School, Transportation Enhancement and Scenic Byway Programs. These programs no longer exist independently, but have been consolidated into the new Transportation Alternatives Program. The TAP builds upon the legacy of the Transportation Enhancement Program and Safe Routes to School programs by expanding travel choices, strengthening the local economy, improving the quality of life and protecting the environment.

Eligible applicants include local governments, schools, tribal governments, natural resource and public lands agencies, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies or any other local or regional governmental agencies with responsibility for oversight of transportation projects. In the first three years of funding, four tribal projects have been funded, including shared use paths, sidewalks and pathway lighting for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and Yankton Sioux Tribe.

Approximately $2.1 million in funding is available through this competitive grant process. Funds may be used for preliminary and construction engineering, construction, and right-of-way acquisition. Funded projects require an 18.05% minimum non-federal match. Eligible projects must meet one or more of these activities and must relate to surface transportation.

- Facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized forms of transportation.
- Safe routes for non-drivers.
- Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails.
- Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.
- Planning and implementation of community improvement activities.
- Environmental mitigation.
- Safe routes to school projects.
- Boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.

The application process consists of the submittal of a letter of intent, a site visit, the submittal of a full application and a presentation to an Advisory Committee comprised of local government representatives, law enforcement and education representatives, avid walkers and bikers, tribal representatives and others, with technical assistance from Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration representatives. Projects are selected by the Transportation Commission, with the assistance and recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

Projects submitted for funding this summer, will likely be under construction during the summer of 2017.

For more information on TAP contact Nancy Surprenant at Nancy.Surprenant@state.sd.us or 605.773.4912 or go to website at http://www.sddot.com/services/transalt/default.aspx to obtain the TAP Program Summary and Application Guide and additional information on due dates.

Fee increase for driver license and ID cards on July 1

South Dakotans will see an increase in some driver license application fees starting July 1. House Bill 1041, approved by this year's Legislature, increases fees for these categories:
*** An original or renewal driver license or ID will go from $20 to $28;
*** A duplicate license or ID $10 to $15;
*** The cost of a commercial driver license $25 to $33; and,
*** Commercial driver license endorsement knowledge test fees $10 to $15.
Revenue raised from the increases will help fund the state Driving Licensing Program. The average current cost to operate the program equates to $29.75 per driver license or identification card issued. It is predicted that the new increase will keep the program solvent until fiscal year 2024. Drivers are reminded that they can renew their licenses starting 180 days prior to expiration. The Driver Licensing Program is part of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

Department of Social Services Offers Additional Services in Lower Brule

In an effort to better meet the needs of customers, Department of Social Services (DSS) staff will be available one day each month in the Lower Brule community.

Starting on Thursday, June 4, 2015, a DSS Benefits Specialist will be available from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month in the Lower Brule Sioux Tribal building, WIC office. The Benefits Specialist can help with assistance programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

We are committed to providing quality service to best meet the needs of customers throughout the area. If you have any questions about the upcoming availability in Lower Brule you may contact the DSS office in Chamberlain at 605.734.4500 or 1.888.749.0007. We look forward to serving you in the future.

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Approves Smoke-Free Air Act

The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe's new Smoke-Free Air Act took effect on May 1, making it the first tribe in South Dakota to prohibit smoking and the use of electronic cigarettes in indoor public places. The ordinance includes an additional requirement to keep smoking 50 feet away from public building entrances.

This public health win is a great success for Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. The South Dakota Department of Health commends the Tribal Council and the Canli Coalition of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe for their diligence in providing smoke-free environments and preventing exposure to secondhand smoke in their community. Overwhelming support from tribal members influenced the adoption of the tribal ordinance. CRST Tribal Council Received over 150 letters of support during a 30-day public comment period. Youth and coalition members also provided testimonials and presented the benefits of going smoke-free at Tribal Council meetings.

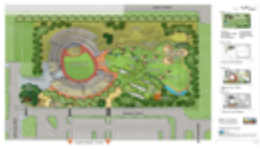
CRST Tribal Law Enforcement will enforce the Smoke-Free Air Act. For more information, visit https://www.facebook.com/CanliCoalitionOfCRST. The South Dakota Tobacco Control Program created a Website and tribal tobacco policy toolkits found at www.FindYourPowerSD.org/toolkits to educate on the dangers of commercial tobacco use and support policy adoption, implementation and enforcement.

Alliance of Tribal Tourism Advocates in partnership with Main Street Square Presents

He Sapa Center for Performing Arts Northern Plains Art Market

Every Tuesday from 3pm to 7pm
Starting June 9, 2015 Thru September 22, 2015
Main Street Square
Downtown Rapid City, SD

Call for Artists to set up at Market
No set up fees/must be enrolled member of Federally Recognized Tribe, Northern Plains artists first preference, Current SD Revenue License, Must pre-register to confirm booth space, limited to 14 artists
Contract Robert Cook 646-770-6324



Accident Records Now Available Online

Citizens can now obtain copies of state-reportable crash records online thanks to a new system unveiled by the South Dakota Office of Highway Safety.

The new online system, which became operational in May, is available at the office's http://www.safesd.gov/ website. Lee Axdahl, director of the Office of Highway Safety, says the online system helps streamline what was once a cumbersome transaction.

"Until now, individuals have had to visit local law enforcement agencies or contact the Accident Records program by mail or telephone to get copies of state-reportable crash records," Axdahl says. "Credit and debit card transactions could not be processed under the old system. But that is now a thing of the past."

The new system allows users to search the database for crash records. There is a flat $10 fee to purchase each record online. If users do not wish to pay the $10, which includes the online transaction fee; they can still request by mail a crash report for $4, either by cash, check or money order, to the Department of Public Safety.

"We are trying to make it easier and much faster for people to obtain their crash records," Axdahl said. "The old system had been in place for many years. We've worked to integrate all of the associated databases into one searchable system that gives an instant product to our consumers."

Crash records are typically requested by insurance companies, law firms and individuals involved in state-reportable vehicle crashes. Currently a state-reportable crash is for those resulting in $1,000 damage per vehicle or more than $2,000 total damage for all of the involved vehicles. Starting July 1, that standard changes to $2,000 per vehicle and more than $4,000 total damage for all vehicles.

The Office of Highway Safety is part of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

From the Department of Tourism

American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association

The South Dakota Department of Tourism is a member of the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA).

http://www.aianta.org

AIANTA holds an annual conference hosted by tribes from across the country. The American Indian Tourism Conference (AITC) is the only national conference on tourism in Indian Country. Designed to share knowledge, experience and best practices from tourism programs around the U.S., AITC features exciting and unique mobile workshops that highlight the culture of the region and host tribes; an impressive line-up of expert speakers who provide resources and training to build capacity; and networking opportunities to share, teach and learn from each other.

This year, the 17th Annual American Indian Tourism Conference will be hosted at the Sky Ute Casino Resort in Ignacio, Colorado September 13-17. A staff person from the Department of Tourism has been attending this conference for the past six years accompanied by representatives from some of the South Dakota tribes. The Department has funds available to cover registration fees and one mobile workshop for this conference for one designated person from each of the nine tribes in South Dakota. Additional expenses that the tribes would be responsible for include transportation, lodging and meals during travel days. Conference registration fees include most meals during the conference. For additional details and to discuss sending a representative from your tribe, please contact:

Eileen Bertsch, Department of Tourism, 605-773-3301 or eileen.bertsch@travelsouthdakota.com.

Voluntary Climbing Closure for June at Devils Tower

An annual voluntary closure for climbing at Devils Tower is in effect through the month of June. Climbers are asked to refrain from climbing on the Tower during June out of respect for American Indians in ceremony at the Tower.

"American Indian activities and ceremonies occur in the Monument throughout the year, however the month of June is an especially significant time for traditional Tribal practitioners. Climbers should consider their perspectives and choose to climb at the many alternative climbing sites in the area such as the Needles and Spearfish Canyon in South Dakota, and White Rock, Tensleep Canyon and Tongue River Canyon in Wyoming. " said, Nancy Stimson, Chief of Education. "The 1995 Devils Tower National Monument Climbing Management Plan established this annual voluntary closure for all climbing routes on the Tower." The Access Fund, a nonprofit organization works to maintain access to climbing areas and protect the climbing environment, fully supports the voluntary climbing closure. An estimated 60% of climbers choose not to climb during June.

Modern climbing at the Tower began in the late 1800s when it was scaled by two local ranchers using a wooden ladder in one section of their climb. Today, hikers on the Tower Trail can see parts of the historic ladder through a spotting scope. Climbers from around the world consider the Tower to be a unique and premier rock climbing area. Approximately 5,000 climbers trek to Devils Tower each year. Some climbers summit the Tower, while others try different climbing techniques and routes not intending to summit. Although it is sometimes assumed that climbing damages the rock, contemporary climbing methods have little impact on the Tower.

To learn more about Devils Tower National Monument contact a park ranger at 307-467-5283, visit us online at www.nps.gov/deto or on Facebook at Devils-Tower-National-Monument-Official-NPS-Site.

Services available through the SD State Library

The South Dakota State Library provides leadership for innovation and excellence in libraries and services to state government. Get to know your state library and the services it offers. The library is located in the MacKay Building at 800 Governors Drive and is open to the public M-F, 8-5. Visit in person or online at http://library.sd.gov/

Services to state government employees

Electronic resources available FREE 24/7
Research and reading area
South Dakota history and Native American collections
SD State Agency digitized publications (current and historical) at http://cdm16384.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/
State and federal government publications
Historical state publications available for research purposes
Grants database
Research assistance for state government employees
Resource sharing throughout SD libraries via the interlibrary loan program
Resource training for state government employees (online and face2face)
Meeting room space available
Agency specific collections
Exam proctoring

Populations with special needs

Electronic resources (some with audio) available FREE 24/7
Digital audiobooks and downloads through the Braille and Talking Book Program
Braille books through the Braille and Talking Book Program
Magazines in audio and braille format
Educational resources in large print and Braille for K - 12
Books by South Dakota authors and books about South Dakota available in audio format

All South Dakota citizens have access to the large collection of electronic resources listed at http://library.sd.gov/LIB/ERD/access/complete.aspx.
Apply for a library card
http://library.sd.gov/forms/librarycard/index.aspx
If you have any questions, call the library at 1-800-423-6665 (SD only) or 605-773-3131, option 4.

Federal Funding for Tribal Child Support Enforcement

Federal funding is available to qualifying tribes interested in operating child support enforcement programs. The Child Support Enforcement (CSE) program was established in 1975 under title IV-D of the Social Security Act as a joint CSE federal/state partnership.

The goal of the CSE program, also known as the IV-D program, is to ensure both parents financially support their children. The IV-D program is charged with locating noncustodial parents, establishing paternity, establishing and enforcing support orders, and collecting child support payments from parents who are legally obligated to pay. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) provided authority under title IV-D for direct funding of tribes and tribal organizations for operating CSE programs.

Federally recognized tribes may apply for funding to operate a child support enforcement program consistent with tribal laws and customs. Upon approval of an application, tribes receive 100 percent federal funding to put a program into place. Start-up funding lasts for two years and totals $500,000. At the end of the two year funding period, the tribe must submit another application to operate the CSE program, providing all child support services.

For the next three years, the tribe is required to provide a 10 percent non-federal share of costs to operate the program. For all periods following the three-year period, the tribe will receive federal grant funds equal to 80 percent of the total amount of approved and allowable expenses. The tribe is required to provide a 20 percent non-federal share of costs to operate the program. The non-federal share of program expenditures must be provided either with cash or with in-kind contributions, and must meet the requirements found in 45 CFR 74.23.

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe operate federally funded child support programs. This allows the state and tribe to refer cases to each other for assistance in establishing paternity, and establishing and enforcing child support orders. For approximately 16 years, the South Dakota Division of Child Support (DCS) has worked in cooperation with the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe.

Over the past two years, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has been in the process of building their child support program and working with DCS to establish a process for case referrals. In April 2015, the case referral process began. To date, DCS has referred approximately 50 cases to Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and looks forward to continuing efforts in assisting parents establish a financial partnership to support their children.

Tribes interested in operating a child support enforcement program can find additional information at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/tribal-agencies; the regulations for the tribal child support program can be found at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/final-rule-on-tribal-child-support-enforcement-programs; information about tribes currently operating programs can be found at https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/programs/css/tribal_agency_contacts_printable_pdf.pdf; and information on how to develop an application can be found at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/a-guide-to-the-tribal-iv-d-start-up-application-process.

For additional information, please contact Paige Hausburg, Tribal Coordinator, Office of Child Support Enforcement at 202-401-5635, or paige.hausburg@acf.hhs.gov; or contact Gail Stoltenburg, South Dakota Division of Child Support Division Director at 605-773-3641, dcs@state.sd.us.

USDA Rural Development Renewable Energy Grant Deadline Approaching

USDA Rural Development is currently taking applications for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). The program provides assistance to rural small businesses and agriculture producers to complete a variety of energy saving projects. Offering both loan guarantees and grants, the REAP program helps eligible applicants install renewable energy systems, or to make energy efficiency improvements for businesses and agricultural producers.

USDA is making more than $280 million available to eligible applicants through the REAP program. USDA is offering grants for up to 25 percent of total project costs and loan guarantees for up to 75 percent of total project costs for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. The upcoming REAP grant funding cycle has a deadline of June 30, 2015.

Additional information on the REAP program and application forms can be located on the USDA Rural Development Rural Energy for America Program Website.

For more information on how to apply for REAP funding in South Dakota, contact a USDA Rural Development Program Specialist below:

Dave Franssens, Specialist (Sioux Falls)
Phone: (605) 330-4515, Ext. 128
Fax: (855) 262-1944

Darlene Bresson, Specialist (Watertown)
Phone: (605) 886-8202, Ext. 120
Fax: (855) 262-1945

Clark Guthmiller, Specialist (Pierre)
Phone: (605) 224-8870, Ext. 120
Fax: (855) 262-1942

Gary Wedel, Specialist (Mitchell)
Phone: (605) 996-1564, Ext. 105
Fax: (855) 262-1941

Hettianne Cekalla, Specialist (Rapid City)
Phone: (605) 342-0301, Ext. 118
Fax: (855) 262-1943

Jolene Pravecek, Specialist (Yankton)
Phone: (605) 665-2662; Ext. 116
Fax: (855) 262-1938

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users)

Rural Development Program Deadlines

Program	Application Deadline(s)
Rural Energy for America (REAP) 2015	6/30/2015
Business & Industry Loan Guarantees	Applications accepted year round.
Rural Business Development Grant (formally known as RBEG & RBOG)	Native American Set-Aside Application closed on 05/08/2015; 06/05/2015 for Non Set-Aside applications.
Rural Micro entrepreneur Assistance Program	Quarterly deadlines.
Intermediary Relending Program	Quarterly deadlines.
Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program	Monthly deadlines.
Value Added Producer Grant	07/07/2015 paper applications; 07/02/2015 electronic applications.
Small Socially Disadvantaged Grant	07/20/2015 paper applications; 07/14/2015 electronic applications.
Rural Community Development Grant	To be announced.
Water and Environmental Programs	On-going application cycles; can apply anytime.
Community Loan and Grant Programs	On-going application cycles; can apply anytime.
Single Family Housing Programs… 502 Very-Low and Low Direct Loans; 504 Loans and Grants; and 502 Guaranteed Rural Housing (GRH) Loan Program	On-going application cycles; can apply anytime.
Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing (538)	12/31/2015

USDA Announces $30 Million Available for Food Entrepreneurs and Agricultural Producers to Develop New Products

USDA is making $30 million available to farmers, ranchers and food entrepreneurs to develop new product lines. Funding will be made available through USDA's Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) Program.

VAPG grants can be used to develop new product lines from raw agricultural products or additional uses for already developed product lines. Military veterans, socially disadvantaged, and beginning farmers and ranchers; operators of small- and medium-sized family farms and ranches; farmer and rancher cooperatives; and applicants that propose mid-tier value chain projects are given special priority in applying for VAPGs. Additional priority is given to group applicants who seek funding for projects that "best contribute" to creating or increasing marketing opportunities for these types of operators.

More information on how to apply is on page 26528 of the May 8 Federal Register. The deadline to submit paper applications is July 7. Electronic applications submitted through grants.gov are due July 2.

Meet the SD Jump Start Team

Relationships are a key component of success. Reaching out and connecting with students is a priority and something that is apparent in talking with any of the members of the SD Jump Start Team. The Jump Start Team members are showcased in this article.

Jump Start Advisors are on each campus and are there to support students through their first few years of college. Get to know them better by contacting them and meeting them in person. They are dedicated to helping make the path to a college education and a great future easier to find and navigate. Get a Jump Start today by talking with these team members!

Hannah Burtt – Black Hills State University

Hannah Burtt is the Jump Start Advisor for Black Hills State University. Hannah was born, and grew up in Minnesota until she was 12. Hannah states, "In 2001, my step-father, mother, three sisters and I relocated to a farm outside of Nisland, South Dakota. I attended Middle and High School in Newell. I was active in Cheerleading, Volleyball, student government and FFA. I began my undergraduate studies at South Dakota State University, but moved back to West River and graduated from Black Hills State University in 2011 with my Bachelors of Science in American Indian Studies. My dog and I currently reside in Spearfish." Hannah can be reached at Hannah.Burtt@bhsu.edu

Jack Thompson – Dakota State University

Jack Thompson is the Jump Start Advisor for Dakota State University. "I was born in western South Dakota where most of my family still lives. I graduated high school on the eastern side of the state. I earned my undergraduate degree from South Dakota State University in History with an American Indian Studies minor. I will graduate this summer with a Master's degree in Mass Communication with a focus in Journalism. I have been involved with the American Indian Education and Cultural Center since it first opened in 2008 on SDSU's campus, in various capacities. I have enjoyed working with students throughout my educational experience. I was a peer mentor, student teacher, Graduate Teaching Assistant, and member of numerous clubs and organizations." Jack can be reached at Jack.Thompson@dsu.edu

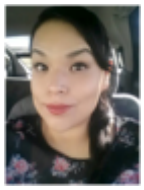
Northern State University

Northern State University is in the process of hiring their Jump Start Advisor. JoEllen Lindner, Vice President for Student Affairs, is working with students and the Jump Start program until the new Advisor is on board in June. JoEllen can be reached at Joellen.Lindner@northern.edu

Staci Eagle Elk – Oglala Lakota College

Staci Eagle Elk is the Retention Advisor at Oglala Lakota College in Kyle, SD. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from the University of Central Oklahoma and plans on completing her M.S. degree in Rural Sociology, specializing in Native Community Development from South Dakota State University. Staci is an enrolled member of the Osage Nation from Pawhuska, Oklahoma but has come to call South Dakota home where she lives with her two children. She is passionate about creating opportunities for tribal communities and believes that providing opportunities and resources will empower and reinforce the spirit of Native youth and future generations of Native Americans. Staci can be reached at seagleelk@olc.edu

Kaylynn Two Bulls - South Dakota School of Mines and Technology



Kaylynn Marie Two Bulls is from Oglala, South Dakota, which is located on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. An enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, she is a strong believer in my traditional ways. Kaylynn graduated from Red Cloud High School in 2007, an honored recipient of the Gates Millennium Scholarship. That fall she attended Black Hills State University (BHSU). In May 2012 she graduated from BHSU with a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree, triple major; Human Services, Sociology, and American Indian Studies. In December 2014 she finished a Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree, specializing in Administration in Student Affairs. Kaylynn can be reached at Kaylynn.TwoBulls@sdsmt.edu

Jill VanDamme - South Dakota State University

Jill graduated from Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education. Jill and her husband moved to Palm Springs, California where she was a 6-8th grade girls Physical Education Teacher as well as Varsity Girls basketball coach and Varsity Boys and Girls Track coach at Christian School of the Desert until 2004. After moving back home to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, she was employed at the Hannahville Indian Reservation in Wilson, Michigan where she was the Community Health Educator until 2006. Jill then worked at Mid Peninsula School in Rock, Michigan as the K – 10 Physical Education and Health Teacher as well as coached Varsity Girls basketball, and Varsity Boys track and field. Jill obtained her Master of Science Degree in Physical Education from Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas in 2008. In 2010, Jill moved with her family to Knoxville, Tennessee where she taught K-5 Physical Education and was a Mentor teacher at East Knox County Elementary School. She was also a Mentor to student athletes with diagnosed learning disabilities at the University of Tennessee until 2013. Jill currently resides in Brookings with her husband, Casey and their three children. Jill can be reached at Jill.VanDamme@sdstate.edu

Michael Suing – University of South Dakota

Michael grew up in small town in southeastern South Dakota, not far from the University of South Dakota. Michael received undergraduate and graduate degrees from USD, and proceeded to work for six years on the East Coast in New York City and Boston. "It took me that much time to realize exactly where I wanted to put my energy, my time, and my commitment. That place is South Dakota, its communities, and its people." Michael states. A nonjudgmental approach to connecting and learning with others, just as I am and as they are, greatly impacts how I live my life today. Consider this: while college may not be the place and way that learning occurs for everyone, it is an option that is accessible to anyone." Michael concludes, "My personal college experience included hard life lessons, long hours of study and play, plenty of student loans, and a network of friends, advisors, professors and family that helped me through every moment." Michael can be reached at Michael.Suing@usd.edu

Dallas Chief Eagle is pictured here with Jefferson Elementary student Ava Westover in Pierre, SD. Dallas worked with the students teaching them hoop dancing during the first week in May. The week ended with a performance by Dallas and the students.

Code Talker Parade Sashes Returned

In September 2001, the State of South Dakota dedicated the WWII monument in Pierre. At that time, the Department of Veterans Affairs recognized twelve Native American Code Talkers who served with the United States Army Signal Corps, many of whom had already passed on. The Department of Veterans Affairs recently discovered these sashes and worked with the Department of Tribal Relations to return them to Tribal Veteran Service Officers (TVSOs). TVSOs can in turn return the sashes to veterans' families or preserve them as part of a unique tribal, state, and national history.

Lowell Amiotte Honored by American Indian College Fund

Lowell Amiotte was honored by the American Indian College Fund on April 16, 2015 as one of their founders.

Lowell Amiotte has spent the last 47 years in education. After getting his bachelor's degree from Black Hills State College, his early years were spent in the classroom teaching History and English. After doing his graduate work at the University of South Dakota and the University of Minnesota, Lowell went to work for the education centers being formed on the Pine Ridge, Rosebud and Cheyenne River Reservations. These centers later became Oglala Lakota College, Sinte Gleska University and Cheyenne River Community College.

He helped establish the American Indian Higher Education Consortium and served on the board of directors during the founding of the American Indian College Fund and the American Indian College Journal. He was a founding member and served as president of the South Dakota Indian Education Association and the South Dakota Association of Bilingual/Bicultural Education. Lowell was a founding member of the South Dakota Indian Counselors Association.

He also served in teaching and administrative positions at Black Hills State University and South Dakota State University. Lowell was president of Oglala Lakota College and was a representative at the White House Conference on Indian Education. Dr. Amiotte has been awarded two honorary doctorates.

This past year Lowell served as the SD Director of Indian Education. He looks forward to retirement and spending time with his grandchildren.

SDSU Extension: Chokecherry Project and Wellness on the Cheyenne River Reservation

The Chokecherry Project is a youth revitalization project focused on providing local youth with hands-on experiences in order to learn the cultural significance as well as scientific knowledge of the wild chokecherry. The purpose is:

- To revitalize cultural knowledge related to wild native foods particularly the chokecherry
- To engage 50 or more youth in this 2yr revitalization project
- To promote the protection of and use of the chokecherry among youth and their families
- To understand the landscape of the chokecherry habitat through soil and plant science
- To create a chokecherry orchard within two years that is accessible to the community
- To encourage value-added products at the local farmer's market

Along with recruiting youth, our first step has been to identify locations of chokecherry bushes and introduce them to the youth. One such location occurs on the outskirts of a neighborhood in Eagle Butte, SD, only a few miles from the city landfill. As a result, the area around the neighborhood sometimes gets littered with trash blowing from the landfill. Our project recruited youth from the children's home and planned a field trip to clean up around the chokecherry bushes. These pictures represent before the cleanup…

There was still some trash deep inside the bushes but we managed to pick up 19 bags of trash from this area and the youth are inspired to return and finish the job when the weather permits. As the youth worked, they also became interested in the other plants living there. They found that wild currant and box elder maple also reside alongside the chokecherry bushes.

A local ethnobotanist will visit the community to provide insight into the medicinal properties of these wild plants and when to harvest their gifts of food and syrup.

At a Wellness Conference in Eagle Butte on May 27th, Marcella Gilbert, the local SDSU Community Development Field Specialist provided a presentation to community members about native foods and traditional diets, and related information on the current diabetes epidemic in Indian Country. Marcella is scheduled to present this important information to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council in an effort to bring support to revitalizing and protecting native foods on the reservation.

For more information contact:

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