

SD Department of Tribal Relations

Issue # 11

December 2015

From Secretary Steve Emery

Season's Greetings

The South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations wishes you all Season's Greetings. The Department will end this productive year by hosting a second tribal legislative training, visiting tribal leaders, collaborating with tribal organizations, and preparing for legislative session.

As we look back on this past year we would like to thank those involved with the partnerships and collaborations that we've had with other State Departments, federal agencies, the nine Tribal Nations that share South Dakota's borders and the many other organizations and individuals that share our vision.

Each conversation, exchange, visit, and project has been a gift to the Department. As we end 2015 and begin 2016, the Department of Tribal Relations will continue to work hard and be responsive to all our partners.

Thank you for an incredible year, and see you next year!



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Raw Travel – Pine Ridge

South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations

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Strengthening Relationships

By Governor Dennis Daugaard

The State of South Dakota shares its borders with nine unique tribal governments; and Native Americans make up about 10 percent of the population in South Dakota. When I was elected in 2010, I made fostering better relations between the State of South Dakota and the tribes a priority. My first year in office I created the Department of Tribal Relations with the aim of coordinating federal, state, and local resources to help solve problems and serve as an advocate for Native American people.

The Department of Tribal Relations has worked to improve relations with tribal governments. As a result of their efforts, and those of many state leaders, the discourse on many subjects like public safety, economic development, agricultural development, reservation-based parole, and veterans' affairs has changed dramatically. Most recently, with the Department's help, the state has been working with the tribes on a Medicaid expansion proposal that would free up state dollars for expansion by increasing access through Indian

Strengthening Relationships Continued...

Health Services.

Also to strengthen relations with the tribes, I regularly make tribal visits. Each year I set aside time to go to the reservations. These visits help me to become better acquainted with the elected leaders of Indian Country and the issues they are facing. I've been making these trips for the past five years and I plan to continue these visits throughout the rest of my second term.

I thank the tribes for their willingness to work with us on important issues affecting our state. Through our collaboration we are truly making South Dakota a better place.

Honoring Nations

Every year, the Harvard Project on American Economic Development honors innovative tribal programs and recognizes best practices in Tribal Nations across the United States. Applications are accepted for programs across a broad range of subject areas including: cultural affairs, economic and community development, environment and natural resources, intergovernmental relations, education, government performance, health and social services, and justice.

Submitted applications are judged on their significance to sovereignty, effectiveness, cultural relevance, transferability, and sustainability. Partnerships between tribes and other entities are encouraged to apply, and multiple applications from a single tribe are encouraged.

You can learn more about Honoring Nations, and or submit an application at <http://www.hpaied.org/honoring-nations>.



Star Parties at Devils Tower

America's National Park Service sites contain many cherished treasures. As darkness falls on Devils Tower, a different kind of light illuminates the night sky. That light, which comes from objects out in space, transforms the night from a place of darkness into a place of wonder. To

celebrate and share the beauty of our dark night skies, Devils Tower National Monument will host the last of this year's star parties in December. The star parties will be free of charge and approximately two hours in duration. Telescopes will be provided for viewing, although visitors who have their own telescopes are invited to bring them. Star parties may be canceled due to inclement weather: for more information call the visitor center 9 am – 4 pm at 307-467-5283 ex. 635.

December 11th

–Non-Viewing of the New Moon through Telescopes –a New Moon is the darkest night of the month, which allows for amazing star viewing, and views of deep sky objects with telescopes.

December 13th

–Devils Tower presents the magnificent, King of the Meteor Showers, the Gemini's. The Gemini's are typically one of the best and most reliable of the annual meteor showers, providing 120 meteors per hour in multiple colors! It's one of the best opportunities for younger viewers who might not stay up late. Expect delightfully dark skies this year as the crescent moon sets early. The meteors are radiant and travel 22 miles (35 kilometers) per second near the constellation Gemini.

To learn more about Devils Tower National Monument visit www.nps.gov/deto or www.facebook.com/Devils-Tower-National-Monument-Official-NPS-Site or twitter.com/DevilsTowerNM or

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Tribal Legislative Training

December 14, 2015 1pm – 5pm
Capitol Rm. 413
Pierre, SD

Lakota Nation s Education Conference

December 16 – 19, 2015
Ramkota Inn
Rapid City, SD

Lakota Nation Invitational

December 16 – 19, 2015
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center
Rapid City, SD

Christmas Holiday

December 24 12pm -5pm
Office Closed
December 25
Office Closed

New Years Day

January 1, 2016
Office Closed

SD Legislative Session

January 12 – March 29

State Tribal Relations Events

Honoring Our Veterans
January 27 – 28, 2016

Health Professional Opportunity Grant



The Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board (GPTCHB) is proud to announce it has received a Health Profession Opportunity Grant (HPOG) through the Office of the Administration for Children & Families (ACF). The HPOG program is designed to match careers in high-demand healthcare fields. The program also promotes collaboration among human services agencies, workforce agencies and educational institutions.

The GPTCHB HPOG project will be entitled: Pathways to Healthcare Professions. Pathways to Health Professions will offer higher education and support services designed to help eligible TANF and other low-income individuals complete their high school and post-secondary education, in conjunction with other healthcare training programs. Program participants will receive career pathway guidance and culturally appropriate supportive services that will help prepare students to become nurses, medical assistants, home health aides, and certified medical billing and coding professionals. Supportive services include child care, tutoring, tuition, transportation, and employment assistance.



“The creation of Pathways to Health Professions comes at a critical time in the Great Plains region. Qualified healthcare professionals are in high demand in the private sector as well as tribal healthcare facilities,” stated GPTCHB CEO, Jerilyn Church. “Through the program, low-income individuals will not only be able to advance their careers, but also contribute to the needs of their communities.”

GPTCHB will begin offering educational and scholarship assistance shortly. For more information, please contact Kathlene Thurman by email at kathlene.thurman@gptchb.org or by phone at (605)721-1922 ext. 113.

This document was supported by grant 90FY0010 from the Administration for Children & Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS.



Save the Date! Honoring Our Veterans

Events Include:

- Listening Session for Tribal Leaders
- Legislative Reception for Tribal & State Leaders
- Rotunda Ceremony – Open to the Public

Strong Relationships Combat Crime

By Marty Jackley, SD Attorney General

The Office of Attorney General is the chief law enforcement office for the State of South Dakota, and



we recognize the need for strong working relationships with local, state, federal and tribal partners. Crime has no borders, which makes it even more important to maintain strong relationships with those areas where jurisdiction can come into question.

Over the past couple of years the Attorney General's Office has entered into joint powers agreements with the Cheyenne Sioux Tribe, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to become registered entities of the Sex Offender Registry Notification Act (SORNA). These three reservations maintain their own sex offender registry of offenders who reside, work or attend school within the boundaries of the reservation. These agreements will allow these tribes to continue to maintain their own offender registry and have their sex offender's data submitted electronically for inclusion into the South Dakota Sex Offender Registry. These joint power agreements were created to protect children and communities for both tribal and non-tribal members across the State.

The Attorney General's Office is also home to the Law Enforcement Training Division. This Division provides training to newly hired officers throughout South Dakota. Several tribal officers have taken part in the 13-week class that includes an array of subjects to best train the officers in a number of important areas. Eighty-two Tribal Officers have been certified since 2005. Law enforcement relationships begin in the basic class and these contacts are especially important to communities that border Indian Country. There will be many cases that will cross-jurisdictional lines and these officers will rely heavily upon each other to solve cases and protect victims. Statewide officer certification is overseen by the Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training Commission and one appointee to the 12-member commission is an enrolled tribal member and officer.

Another important joint operation is the Safe Trails Drug Task Force that unites federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in a collaborative effort to combat the growth of crime in Indian Country. The Task Force allows agencies to combine limited resources and increase investigative coordination in Indian Country to target drug crimes.

Both State and Tribal law enforcement have common goals and interests. We are both responsible for protecting our citizens and keeping our communities safe, and maintaining our solid working relationships will ensure everyone in our State is better served.

Celebration honoring SD code talkers concludes at Crazy Horse

“The use of Native American languages by code talkers was a remarkable tactic that saved countless American lives and helped win both World Wars,” Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, South Dakota National Guard’s adjutant general, told the hundreds attending the final of four Oceti Sakowin Code Talker celebrations at Crazy Horse Memorial, Nov. 11. “It is undisputed that the Native American code talkers had a truly significant impact on our history.”

Designed as a series of events held throughout South Dakota in observance with Native American Heritage Month, the culminating celebration on Veterans Day honored the 67 code talkers from South Dakota Sioux tribes.

The event featured a ceremonial Crazy Horse Memorial blast, guest speakers representing the SDNG and South Dakota’s Native American tribes and an exhibit displaying identification tags, tribal flags and congressional medals. “The design of the exhibit was an easy decision to make,” said Lt. Col. John Weber, a member of the SDNG diversity council and emcee of the celebration. “The Code Talker Recognition Act of 2008 required the Secretary of the Treasury to strike congressional medals in recognition of the dedication and valor of Native American code talkers to the U.S. Armed Services during World War I and World War II. The idea was formulated to once again promote these tribal treasures of honor.”

Under the Act, unique gold medals were struck for each Native American tribe that had a member who served as a code talker. Silver duplicate medals were presented to the specific code talkers, their next of kin or other representatives.

The exhibit showcased the congressional medallions from the Cheyenne River, Crow Creek, Oglala, Rosebud, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, Standing Rock and Yankton tribes. The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe has been authorized a congressional medal, which is currently in design.

“Today, we conduct the last of our code talker celebrations to pay a long overdue tribute to South Dakota’s Native American code talkers and their families for their unique and remarkable service to our great nation,” said Reisch, the keynote speaker. “Since the days of the Revolution, it has been the customary of Congress to award gold medals in honor of great acts and contributions and to commemorate significant historic events.”

Reisch emphasized that the issuance of congressional medals is reserved for only the highest level of recognition and appreciation of people, institutions or events.

“For many years the role of the code talkers was kept classified,” Reisch said. “Until 1968, the very existence of code talkers was a military secret. After serving with distinction, code talkers did the honorable thing and kept their service a secret, even to family members and loved

ones.”

One of many family members in attendance, Francis White Bird, was there to honor his father, Noah White Bird, a code talker from the Rosebud Sioux Tribe who served in the 9th Army Corps, 999 Signal Battalion.

“He did tell me that he was a code talker, but he used to just tell funny stories,” said Francis, “He didn’t say much about combat or anything like that.”

Francis, who comes from a long line of military service, beginning with two great grandfathers who fought in the Battle of Rosebud and the Battle of Little Bighorn said the recognition is a long time coming.

“They never talked about what they did,” said Francis. “They took an oath and they kept it.”

Richard Brown of Pine Ridge, told a few light-hearted stories his father, Garfield Brown, had shared with him from before telling the audience about the time his father’s unit came across a prisoner-of-war camp during World War II.

“It was a very emotional scene,” Richard said. “Soldiers were hugging them, crying, and thanking them that were now free. My dad, shared some water and food with one POW who would pass away in his arms.”

Garfield would tell his son, “It was then he knew why they were fighting,” Richard said. “He fought for family, country and freedom.”

Identification tags with the names of each of the 67 code talkers from South Dakota were blessed in a ceremony held by Jerome LeBeaux, medicine man from Pine Ridge, and then presented to their respective tribes by Reisch.

“The significant contribution of our South Dakota code talkers has gone unheralded for too long,” Reisch said. “It is absolutely fitting and proper that we finally acknowledge their accomplishments and celebrate their service to our state and nation. This nation has definitely benefitted, greatly from our Native American’s service and sacrifice.”



Highlights from the Code Talker Ceremony at Crazy Horse



Blast at Crazy Horse



Tribal Relations Secretary Emery



Family of Iver Crow Eagle, RST



CRST Veterans Mia Little Thunder & Marcella



Family of Edmund St. John, CCST



Ben Black Bear Jr. Sings Honor Song



Yankton Sioux Tribe Veterans & Chairman Flying Hawk



Jeremiah Black Bear



Chairwoman Roxanne Sazue, CCST



Francis & Brendan White Bird



General Reisch & Manaja Hill, SRST



Geri Opsal – SWO, Sec. Emery & Gen. Reisch

Thank you to all our Veterans!

Creating Economic Opportunities by Protecting Tribal Sovereignty

By Rep. Kristi Noem

For decades, it was clear that the National Labor Relations Act – a law regarding labor union privileges – did not apply to tribes, just as it did not apply to other governments. But in 2004, a federal agency unilaterally determined that the National Labor Relations Act applied to tribally owned businesses on tribal lands. As a result, the ability of tribes to govern labor practices was undermined, jeopardizing the vitally important governmental programs and services that rely on revenue from tribal businesses.

Since the announcement, many tribes – including some of those in South Dakota – have expressed great concerns over the impact of this ruling, as it poses a threat to the foundation of Indian law and the principle of tribal sovereignty.

Tribes already work daily to overcome high rates of poverty and unemployment. They continually encourage economic development through self-determination. The last thing tribes need when trying to improve economic opportunities for their people is a federal bureaucracy meddling with their efforts.

In 2011, I first introduced the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act, which would clarify the law and ensure tribally owned businesses on tribal lands were not subject to the jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Act. As a result, the National Labor Relations Board would not have administration and enforcement powers on reservation land for tribally owned businesses.

This November, that legislation passed the U.S. House of Representatives with bipartisan support. I'm hopeful the U.S. Senate will consider this legislation quickly, so we can finally correct the record and reaffirm our commitment to tribal sovereignty.

Tribal Legislative Training

The Department of Tribal Relations will host this Legislative Training for tribal officials and program staff on Monday, December 14th from 1 – 5 p.m. in Conference Room 413 on the fourth floor of the Capitol in Pierre. This training will include a mock legislative hearing, the opportunity to visit with sitting legislators, public lobbyist sign-up discussion, and extensive Q&A.

For more information contact the SD Department of Tribal Relations at (605) 773-3415.

Tribal Economic Development Task Force

The South Dakota's Legislature's Tribal Economic Development Task Force concluded with a final meeting on November 20th. A complete record of these meetings, including agendas and minutes, can be found online at the LRC website

<http://legis.sd.gov/Interim/Documents.aspx?Committee=145&Session=2015>

On-The-Job Training and Apprenticeship Program for Veterans



Veterans can use their education benefits, including the Post-9/11 GI Bill, to pursue on-the-job (OJT) and apprenticeship training. OJT/Apprenticeship program is a simple and effective way to attract and increase retention of well-disciplined veterans into

hard-to-fill positions and provide them with the specific skills and knowledge needed to perform their duties.

“For more than a century, education, as we know it, has traditionally been in a classroom setting. Before this more modern arrangement, there was apprenticeship. Apprentices are productive members of the workforce who have chosen to master their craft as they train on the job and in the classroom,” said Ryan Fowler, education representative for the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

The OJT/APP program allows veterans to learn a trade or skill through structured training and close supervision on the job rather than attending formal classroom instruction. The program is available through both non-federal and federal agencies/entities.

Veterans benefit from these programs through improved skills and competencies that meet the specific needs of the employer, incremental wage increases as their skills improve, occupation-focused education, and career advancement. Employer benefits include increased productivity, enhanced retention, and a stable and predictable pipeline for the development of qualified workers.

For more information about the OJT/Apprenticeship program, veterans are urged to contact Ryan Fowler at the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (605-773-3565).

Canpa Unkakupi, Youth Revitalization Project on Cheyenne River

The Canpa Unkakupi Youth Revitalization Project seeks to increase knowledge and appreciation of the chokecherry among Native American youth. With that goal in mind, Marcella Gilbert, project leader and Community Development Field Specialist with SDSU Cheyenne River Extension, collaborates with educators, such as Peg Henson of Cheyenne Eagle Butte High School, to teach students all about the chokecherry and its' cultural relationship to native people of this region. Local tribal members provide insight into the cultural, medicinal and spiritual values of the chokecherry.

Recently, thirty-five students in Peg Henson's Family and Consumer Science class cleaned and prepared chokecherries to make jam and jelly. Each student brought home a half-pint jar of jam.

Future classes will focus on plant science. In addition, students will learn about soil science as they explore the Web Soil Survey – a website developed and maintained by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. In the spring, students will work on plant identification skills and will help to locate established plants in the area. The ultimate outcome of the project will be the establishment of a chokecherry orchard for the benefit of the community and for continued educational and cultural activities.

With winter coming on, readers may appreciate this recipe for chokecherry cough syrup from Linda Black Elk:

Chokecherry Elixir:

1 c chokecherries
2 c water
1 large chunk of ginger (2" piece)
Cook ingredients for 45 min
Strain
Add 1 c. raw honey and ½ c lemon juice
Keep refrigerated
Give 1 TB every hour for cough or illness

For more information, contact **Marcella Gilbert**, **SDSU Extension Community Development Field Specialist**, marcella.gilbert@sdstate.edu (605)964-4955

or **Shawn Burke**, **SDSU Extension Native American Programs Director**, shawn.burke@sdstate.edu (605)394-2236

Bear Butte Forum - Established 1997



The Bear Butte Forum was established in 1997 as a way to address concerns brought to the Department of Game Fish and Parks, by various Tribes from throughout the northern plains.

Topics for discussion have included trust, religious use, dogs on the mountain, alcohol consumption on a sacred site, human remains (ashes) being left on the mountain, hunting, artifact looting, park development and overcrowding in the ceremonial area. Several are ongoing issues.

Over the years, recommendations made by the Forum have influenced the enactment of rules and regulations to address issues such as dogs on the mountain, alcohol use and human remains.

The challenges never go away. We deal with them as they come. When we get concerns from the Indian Community we address them immediately. Many first time forum attendees are surprised that the focus of the forum is solely about the protection of the mountain and the right to pray there.

I believe that because we deal with every issue immediately no matter how small, we have proven that we are committed to work side by side with others protecting Bear Butte.

With all the restrictions, I realize that many think they are in the land of “NO” when they come to the park. However I believe the regulations allow staff and visitors to appropriately interpret the sacredness and spirituality of the mountain.

The Bear Butte Forum is open to the public. The next forum will be held on April 30, 2016.

Jim Jandreau
Bear Butte State Park Manager

Valuable Conferences

From the Department of Tourism

American Indian Tourism Conference The 17th annual American Indian Tourism Conference of the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) was held September 13-17 at the Sky Ute Casino Resort in Ignacio, Colorado. I was privileged to, once again, attend this great conference. The Department of Tourism offers to cover conference registration fees for one representative from each of the nine South Dakota tribes. This year, the following people took advantage of this offer and attended the conference: Elias Mendoza, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate and LaDonna Allard, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and newly elected AIANTA Plains Region representative. Other South Dakota people also in attendance were Tamara St. John, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate; Ivan Sorbel, Pine Ridge Chamber of Commerce and South Dakota Governor's Tourism Advisory Board member; Department of Tribal Relations Secretary, Steve Emery; Miles Allard, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; and Sydnee Ferguson and January Mathis with the Pine Ridge Chamber of Commerce. The State of South Dakota was well represented at this conference of about 350 attendees. A valuable and enjoyable part of this conference is mobile workshop day. Attendees can sign up to spend the day on a field trip to learn how local tribes promote tourism in their area. Check out this year's [conference program](#) to see what the breakout topics were.

Unveiled at this year's conference is AIANTA's new website devoted to promoting all things tourism related for tribes nationwide. The website is www.NativeAmerica.Travel. Scroll to the bottom of the page to add your attraction or business. If you are in need of high-resolution photos to accompany your listing, you may contact me at eileen.beresch@travelsouthdakota.com and I will see if the Department of Tourism has what you need on file. Standing Rock has already added content to this new website.

2016 Governor's Conference on Tourism This annual conference, held in Pierre each year in January, brings together approximately 650 visitor industry people from across South Dakota and the country. Letters were recently sent from Department of Tourism Secretary, Jim Hagen, to the nine tribal presidents and chairmen/women inviting them or a tribal member of their choice, to attend the conference as guests of the Department of Tourism. We were honored to have Crow Creek Chairwoman, Roxanne Sazue attend the 2015 conference. Hopefully we will have the privilege of welcoming leaders from a few of the other tribes in January. Please contact me with any conference questions.

SDSU Extension: Help Wanted!

In support of the Healthy Foods, Healthy Families, Healthy Communities Initiative, SDSU Extension has several full-time positions we are seeking to fill, including a **Community Development Field Specialist** to serve the Rapid City area and a **Community Development Extension Associate** to serve the Standing Rock Reservation. SDSU Extension also seeks qualified individuals to fill **Extension (4-H) Youth Advisor** positions in Eagle Butte and in Mission. We're looking for motivated individuals who are serious about making a difference for youth and families on South Dakota Reservations. If you are a self-starter, are good with youth and adults, and want to have a real impact on food access, health and nutrition on reservations, then we want YOU! SDSU actively seeks to increase social and intellectual diversity among its faculty and staff. Women, minorities, veterans, and people with disabilities are especially encouraged to apply. "For a complete listing of positions at SDSU, please visit <http://YourFuture.sdbor.edu>"

For more information, contact **Shawn Burke, SDSU Extension Native American Programs Director**, shawn.burke@sdstate.edu (605)394-2236

SDSU Extension: Pine Ridge Reservation Welcomes New 4-H Youth Advisor

Aminah Hassoun recently accepted the position of SDSU Extension Youth Advisor for the Pine Ridge Reservation. Aminah graduated with a Bachelor's degree from California Lutheran University in 2012. As a student, she became passionate about food justice and agriculture, which inspired her to work on a small farm and eventually led her to South Dakota. Aminah joins the Pine Ridge Extension Office after two years as a volunteer teacher with Red Cloud Indian School. In addition to teaching Botany and Multi-media in the High School, Aminah drove a school bus, was in charge of the geodesic greenhouse, and helped to develop a K-12 Eco-curriculum. As the new 4-H coordinator for Pine Ridge Reservation, Aminah plans to revitalize youth programs through county and school enrichment events, and by growing a strong community base of participants and volunteers. Programs will explore a variety of topics, including gardening, visual arts, Lakota heritage and traditions, and archery, to name a few.

For more information or to get involved, contact **Aminah Hassoun**, aminah.hassoun@sdstate.edu (605)455-1299



Notah Begay III Foundation Announces Community Action Grant Opportunity

The Notah Begay III Foundation (NB3F)'s national program, Native Strong: Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures is pleased to announce its 2016 Community Action Grants Request For Applications (RFA). This new funding opportunity, made possible in part by the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation, will expand NB3F's support to Native Nations and Native American organizations working to improve the health and wellness of our children and communities. As a new initiative, these grants will build on the planning work conducted by Native American communities who are ready for the "next stage" of implementing their youth obesity and type-2 diabetes prevention strategies. This funding opportunity will NOT support direct service programming. Rather, these grants will support actions that are addressing systemic change by engaging the community at various levels to influence and promote Native American child health over the long term. Examples could be but are not limited to:

- Addressing the elimination of sugar sweetened beverages at schools, early childhood centers or recreational centers
- Engaging tribal leadership to promote the serving of healthy foods at community gatherings or cultural events

- Eliminating barriers of access for local farmers to provide fresh produce to schools
- Promoting the use of trails to be inclusive in all community programming to increase the amount of daily or weekly physical activity children engage

"Complimenting our existing grant opportunities, the Community Action Grant focuses on interventions and strategies that go beyond programming and look at the structural and systemic challenges in addressing childhood obesity." said Olivia Roanhorse, Director of Native Strong. "These grants will support Native communities interested in understanding how schools, parks, child care centers, etc. can adopt healthy practices and policies to improve the health of their children."

Four multi-year (18 month) grants of up to \$60,000 each will be awarded to support the implementation of action plan and strategies to address systemic barriers in childhood obesity and type 2 diabetes prevention.

The application deadline is December 18, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. MST. All applications must be submitted through NB3F's online system. NB3F plans to award grants up to \$60,000 for this grant cycle. Additional information including eligibility criteria, the full Request for Application (RFA) and the link to the online application can be found on NB3F's Community Action Grant page at <http://www.nb3foundation.org/grant-seekers/community-action-grants>.

For this particular grant cycle, applications will ONLY be accepted from the following states: Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Please share this opportunity with colleagues, tribal leadership, community and non-profit leaders whose interests align with this initiative.

Contact Michelle Gutierrez, Program Officer at grants@nb3.org or call (505) 867 – 0775 ext. 269.

Creating Homeownership Opportunities for Tribal Members

USDA Rural Development and Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Sign a Memorandum of Understanding

Recently, JC Crawford, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate's (SWO) Executive Director for Sisseton Wahpeton Housing Authority joined Bruce Jones, USDA Rural Development Acting State Director, in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will create homeownership opportunities for tribal members on the Lake Traverse Indian Reservation (also known as Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate).

"With the strong support and commitment toward the housing needs of SWO Members, Tribal Council and other Leaders the SWO are assuring the success of home ownership on the Lake Traverse Reservation. The MOU will assure that the much needed resources will have a direct impact to its members; along with providing the assurance of investors to develop a partnership that will provide down payment assistance funding and mortgage loans to SWO members." said JC Crawford, Executive Director of the Sisseton Wahpeton Housing Authority.

"Seven families have been deemed eligible to participate in this process," said Bruce Jones, South Dakota Rural Development Acting State Director. "USDA Rural Development looks forward to working with SWO to help low- and very-low income rural families build a better future through homeownership. Homeownership provides a strong foundation that helps people build household wealth, start a business, fund education through home equity, and climb ladders of economic opportunity."

USDA Rural Development will process applications up to the point of Certificate of Eligibility for the 502 Direct Loan Program and then refer the family to Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate to determine if the family is eligible to participate in the SWO Risk Pool. Section 502 direct loans are primarily used to help low- and very low-income individuals or households purchase homes in rural areas. Funds can be used to acquire, build, repair, renovate, or relocate a home. The Risk Pool will be monitored through the SWO who will provide foreclosure avoidance services to identified participants who are in the Risk Pool Program and SWO will purchase the position held by USDA Rural Development on individual families who have agreed and are approved to participate in the SWO Risk Pool for the lower of the payoff amount or the Net Recovery Value.

USDA Rural Development and Sisseton-Wahpeton Housing Authority are partners and members of the South Dakota Native Homeownership Coalition (Coalition). The Coalition is a partnership of Federal and State agencies, Housing Development Authorities and non-profit entities that share the common goal of improving Native homeownership in South Dakota. The MOU will be a guide to other Tribal Coalition members who are working toward providing their Members the opportunity for home ownership within their Reservations.

USDA Rural Development in South Dakota has offices in Aberdeen, Huron, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Watertown, and Yankton. For more information, visit the USDA Rural Development website at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/sd>.

The Administration's plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. These investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way – strengthening America's economy, small towns and rural communities. USDA's investment in rural communities support the rural way of life that stands as the backbone of our American values.

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).

Charming & Cozy Describe Home of Aberdeen, S.D. Family

“Our overall feelings toward the home are inexplicable joy and relief. It feels...like it was time and meant to be...home,” said new homeowner Jennifer Hornedeagle.

The Hornedeagle family received a USDA Rural Development Section 502 Direct Single Family Housing packaged loan from HAPI to purchase their home.

In addition, this family was the first to benefit from a partnership between CIHAND and Dacotah Bank, together they deliver the

NAHI program, which is funded, through the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines (FHLB).



Anthony & Jennifer Hornedeagle & their three children

NAHI can provide an eligible household a forgivable grant for down payment and costs in conjunction with a 502 Direct loan from USDA Rural Development. Through the partnership, CIHAND funds the NAHI grant at the time of closing on the property. Once the repairs or rehab have been completed, FHLB and Dacotah Bank reimburse the funds to CIHAND. This funding helps provide a Native American family a homeownership opportunity that is affordable to them.

“Grow South Dakota is honored to be a part of the Hornedeagle’s story. The dedication and commitment they have made to make a lasting legacy for their family is undeniably homeownership at its best. The down payment closing cost funding utilized for this family was awarded to Grow SD through a competitive application from the South Dakota Housing Opportunity Fund. The Hornedeagles’ story is a great message advocating how the various links and connections are solutions to affordable housing” stated Lori Moen, Chief Operating Officer, at Grow South Dakota.

“This home has enabled us to put down roots and provided a place for our children to create lasting memories. The best words to describe it are charming and cozy,” added Hornedeagle. Hornedeagle also commented that there is no doubt the family’s quality of life has improved and the location is perfect. The home is across the street from a school. In fact she shared that the children were the deciding factor in their decision to buy a home.

Obligation Amount: 502 Direct loan

Date of Obligation: 09-21-2015

Congressional District: At Large— Senator Johnson, Senator Thune, Congresswoman Noem

Partners: USDA Rural Development, Homes Are Possible, Inc., Grow SD, Coalition of Indian Housing and Native Development (CIHAND), Dacotah Bank, and CenDak Reality, Inc.

Demographics: Aberdeen, SD

Impact: Homeownership is a critical step on the ladder of opportunity. Homeownership provides financial stability, self-worth, and security for rural families.

Habitat Pays Breaks New Ground

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks and Department of Agriculture have teamed up on the Habitat Pays initiative. Habitat Pays connects farmers and ranchers with the tools to help them develop and maintain wildlife habitat in ways that make sense on their land.

“Habitat conservation is important in South Dakota. Through these efforts, we conserve our land, enhance our wildlife population and preserve our outdoor traditions,” Gov. Daugaard said. “I commend the departments of Agriculture and Game, Fish and Parks for finding common ground and working together on this issue.”

How It Started

Gov. Daugaard formed a habitat work group. He charged members with developing recommendations focused on practical solutions for maintaining and improving pheasant habitat that are compatible with agriculture production.

The 13-member group met regularly, reviewing survey results, scientific data, letters and suggestions, and released a report in September 2014. This report is available at habitat.sd.gov.

One of the group’s recommendations was to create an awareness campaign to connect landowners with the many resources available for establishing habitat on their land. Another recommendation was to implement a website specific to habitat management with information on federal, state, local and non-government programs for landowners to learn about and access when appropriate. Together these recommendations became Habitat Pays.

Partnering with Agriculture

“South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks’ understands that working with agriculture, and specifically the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, is key to the success of Habitat Pays. Agriculture is the state’s number one industry, with a \$25.6 billion economic impact,” Hepler noted. “Truly understanding the farmer’s point of view is a critical component for success.”

South Dakota Department of Agriculture Secretary Lucas Lentsch agreed. “Farmers and ranchers know what’s best for their land and their operation. With Habitat Pays, we want to help landowners find the right programs to meet their personal land use goals.”

The two departments are working together to meet with agribusinesses, commodity organizations, cooperatives and producers to discuss ways to foster collaboration, improve communication and achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

Habitat.sd.gov

“The newly developed Habitat Pays website is a great resource for the farmers and ranchers of South Dakota,” said Secretary Hepler. “We invite everyone to check it out.”

Videos on the site feature stories of landowners in various parts of the state who have taken advantage of programs to maintain or establish habitat.

The site includes a comprehensive list of resources, along with a list of habitat advisors who are experts in conservation programs and habitat planning. They possess the knowledge of federal, state and local programs to assist landowners in finding the right program or programs to meet their personal habitat and land use goals. Habitat advisors are available to assist landowners in designing, developing and funding habitat improvements on private lands. Background information, images and contact information for each of the habitat advisors is available on the website so that landowners can put a name and a face together.

Habitat advisors can provide a critical link between producers and the many habitat and conservation programs. These individuals are available to help landowners statewide plan and implement strategies on their property. In addition to assisting farmers and ranchers who wish to assess their land for habitat or enhance existing habitat, they can help producers choose from the wide array of incentive programs.

Habitat Pays

Continued...

Resources for Landowners

Dozens of federal, state and non-governmental programs are available to help landowners establish or maintain habitat. Assistance is provided in the form of funding, resources and expertise. See full descriptions of these types of habitat programs online at habitat.sd.gov.

- Access Programs
- Food Plots
- Forestry Programs
- Watershed Protection Programs
- Wildlife Friendly Ag Practices
- Wildlife Habitat Management
- Wetland Habitat
- Woody Habitat
- Working Grassland

Spread the Word

“Habitat Pays provides landowners with the resources and financial incentives they need to achieve their individual habitat development goals. Habitat truly does pay because of opportunities for improved soil health, increased land value and abundant wildlife for all South Dakotans,” concluded Secretary Hepler.

Rosebud Extension Food Preservation Series a Success

Every year, Rosebud Extension staff, in conjunction with Sinte Gleska University in Mission, offer gardening and food preparation classes to the community. This year, staff presented a comprehensive series of classes in food preparation and preservation, featuring a variety of foods. Participants of all ages and levels of experience explored safe food handling techniques including drying, freezing and pressure canning of fruits, vegetables, and meats. They cooked squash, made pickles, salsas, jams and jellies, and traditional Wasna.

The series included six classes held throughout the fall harvest season. Each session had an average of 30 participants, with many attending four or more of the six classes.

Beginning and advanced classes in gardening and food preparation will commence next Spring. For more information or to get involved, contact **Rachel Lindvall, Community Development Field Specialist**, rachel.lindvall@sdstate.edu (605)856-2198



Prepping tomatoes to make salsa

USDA Grant Announcements

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced investments to improve rural community infrastructure, provide essential services and improve access to health care across rural America through Rural Development's Community Facilities (CF) program. These investments in health facilities and support for first responders come as the department celebrates National Rural Health Week. In South Dakota, Wilmot Care Center, Inc. is receiving a \$1.77 million loan for the construction of an assisted living facility which will include eight bedrooms and three efficiency units. Upgrades will be made to the heating and cooling systems, dining area, nurse's station and the lobby area. The Oglala Sioux Tribe Department of Public Safety based in Pine Ridge is receiving a \$48,700 grant to purchase two police vehicles to be located in Oglala and the Boys and Girls Club of Lower Brule based in Lower Brule is receiving a \$40,800 grant to replace windows, doors, and floor covering.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA is investing \$23.4 million in 75 projects across 31 states and the Western Pacific to expand distance learning and telemedicine opportunities in rural areas.

"Rural communities often lack access to specialized medical care or advanced educational opportunities necessary for stronger rural economies," Vilsack said, noting that today is National Rural Health Day. "These grants will help increase access to health care and many other essential services."

The grants are being provided through USDA Rural Development's Distance Learning and Telemedicine program. They may be used to purchase equipment to provide educational and telemedicine services to rural communities.

Recipients in South Dakota:

- Oglala Lakota College is receiving a \$284,221 grant to replace video conferencing equipment for 16 classrooms and add four distance learning classrooms. With this project, the applicant will be able to offer 60 courses to 12 Native American colleges. Oglala Lakota College serves an area of over 10,000 square miles that has an average density of 6 people per square mile in South Dakota. The grant will benefit Native Americans of the Pine Ridge Reservation and of the Cheyenne River Reservation. Counties served include Shannon,

Continued...

Dewey, Jackson, and Bennett.

- Horizon Health Care, Inc. is receiving a \$238,303 grant to provide health care to 12 frontier counties that span 7,000 square-miles in South Dakota. The project will help Horizon Health to designate all of their clinics Patient Centered Medical Homes. Patients that have emergent cardiovascular needs and require physician specialists will be able to be examined in their local rural clinics. Mental health services will be offered to residents via telemedicine for expert consultation that will result in fewer complications. Self-management diabetic training will be provided to improve overall condition and quality of life. Counties served include: Miner, Minnehaha, Brown, Kingsbury, Hamlin, Sanborn, Jerauld, Aurora, Mellette, Todd, Buffalo, Bennett, and Beadle.

- Avera Health is receiving a \$74,747 grant to obtain and deploy interactive video-conferencing equipment at 11 rural end-user sites in South Dakota to provide eConsult telemedicine services to rural patients, physicians and clinicians. Eight of the end-user sites are identified as exceptionally rural with five sites designated as Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and three as Community Health Centers. Counties served include Minnehaha, Sully, Lyman, Potter, Stanley, Hyde, Jones, Charles Mix, and Aurora.

- The University of South Dakota is receiving a \$499,897 grant to connect the University of South Dakota's campuses in Vermillion, Pierre, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls with 24 rural hospitals and clinics, including one on the Lake Traverse Indian Reservation. All hub and end-user sites have sufficient broadband networks in place to support this distance-learning project. USD Vermillion campus, the lead organization, will oversee this project towards its overall goal of preparing medical students and nursing students for careers in rural healthcare practice. Counties served include Minnehaha, Pennington, Hughes, Clay, Grant, Lawrence, Walworth, Tripp, Roberts, Brule, Spink, Moody, Custer, Day, Hutchinson, Hand, Gregory, Charles Mix, Jerauld, Bon Homme, Turner, Haakon, Faulk, Douglas, and Turner.

The awards highlight work underway in the private sector, academia and in state and federal rural health offices to address the unique health care needs of rural communities.

Now is the Time to Visit a College Campus

Now is the time to take the next step in the college-going process: visit a campus. For many students, visiting the campus is the single most important step in the process of deciding which college is right for them. A good campus visit can provide the information critical to making that important decision.

Jump Start Access Advisors (working through the Jump Start grant program that focuses on students' college attendance and success) can help students coordinate these visits if he/she is considering any of the participating Jump Start universities and colleges*. Jump Start Access Advisors will work with the student, the high school counselors, as well as the college to coordinate a visit. If you are unsure of what campus you would like to explore, Access Advisors are happy to talk about the benefits of each and explore how your interests align.



Tour Campus

*Participating colleges and universities include:

- Black Hills State University
- Dakota State University
- Northern State University
- South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
- South Dakota State University
- University of South Dakota
- Oglala Lakota College

For help coordinating a visit, contact an Access Advisor at 1-844-601-6957 or email sdjumpstart@sdbor.edu.



Talk to students

Campus Visit Checklist

Gather Information

Find out what you need to do to apply and see if the college's class and major offerings are what you want.

Explore the Campus

Get a feel for student life and see if this college is a place where you will do well.

Check Out Campus Media

Tune in to learn what's happening on campus and what's on students' minds.

Ask Questions During Your Visit

What are the best reasons to go to this college?

What's it like to go from high school to college?

What do you do in your free time? On weekends?

What do you love about this college? What do you wish you could change?

Why did you choose this college?

What is it like to live here?

Christmas at the Capitol



Take the time this holiday season to come to Pierre to experience Christmas at the Capitol. The display is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day of the week through Saturday, Dec. 26.

RAW TRAVEL'S "TRIBAL TOURISM" SHOWCASES BEAUTY & HOPE OF PINE RIDGE

Artist and Idea Management Tell-A-Vision® Group's syndicated television series **Raw Travel**® "Pine Ridge - Tribal Tourism" debuted November 21 & 22, 2015.



The Oglala Lakota Sioux Indian reservation in Pine Ridge, South Dakota is one of if not the poorest area in the entire United States. On the reservation it is reported that:

- Average annual per capita income is estimated at just \$4,000 annually.
- Unemployment is over 80% and it's estimated that over half live below the poverty line.
- Teen (and even pre-teen) suicide is estimated to be four times the national rate.
- They have the second lowest life expectancy in the Western Hemisphere (second only to Haiti).
- Diabetes is eight times (and infant mortality three times) the U.S. rate.
- There is a massive housing crisis with multiple families often crammed into small mobile homes, many without running water or adequate sewage.

However, thanks to a distinctive culture that incorporates ancient traditions and language, Pine Ridge is an emerging destination for travelers interested in "Tribal Tourism." This is helping Pine Ridge residents hang on to their culture while creating a much-needed economic boost. **Raw Travel** is raising awareness by highlighting an inspiring blend of locals, transplants, travelers and volunteers who are working hard to improve conditions. The show aspires to cultivate tourism on Pine Ridge while celebrating its heritage.

The episode was intentionally filmed over the U.S. Independence Day Holiday Weekend (July 4th) and incorporated local talent (camera, crew and artists) to produce the episode.

"Raw Travel Pine Ridge is not poverty porn. We focus on people who impact lives daily. With the heartbreaking and rampant suicide rates, Native American youth in particular need our help. In addition to the basics, most don't have access to pastimes like after school programs, movie theaters or even a swimming pool," states Executive Producer, Robert Rose. "It's unacceptable to me that this situation exists anywhere, but especially in the most powerful economy in the world. The people of Pine Ridge are resilient and hospitable in the face of adversity few of us can comprehend. I hope this episode will not only raise awareness, but also motivate others to donate, volunteer or travel to the reservation."

The producers have created a micro website www.RawTravelPineRidge.com as a resource for people who wish to learn more with additional video content, links to help and travel tips. They are using Crowdfunding to raise funds via www.CrowdRise.com/RawTravel and by selling limited edition "Still Here... Still Proud" T-shirts designed by young Pine Ridge graphic designer, Jimi La Pointe.

Raw Travel is also donating money raised through the sale of an upcoming special DVD release and pay-per-view fundraising screenings of the international-cut version of the episode. Funds raised will be allocated for after school programs in cooperation with the Red Cloud School featured in the episode.