SD Department of Tribal Relations

Issue #4 May 2015

What's Inside

- South Dakota Jump Start
- Department of Tribal Relations Secretary Steve Emery
- Governor's visit to Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
- Save the Date! SD Indian Education Summit
- The Native American Student Achievement Advisory Council
- Tribal Relations Legislative Committee
- Poignee is Legislative Page
- Remembering an Icon – Michael Jandreau
- SD Fire Department Certification Process 2015
- Wildfire Preparedness
- Pilot Parole Supervision Program
- Tribal Homeland Security Grant
- Tribal Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan Meeting
- 911 Modernization Project
- Oglala Lakota College - USDA
- Aspire – Native Youth with Disabilities
- SDSU Extension
- Infant Mortality Rate Declines
- GPTCHB 5th Annual Health Summit
- Emergency Medical Services moves to new office

South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations

302 E. Dakota Avenue
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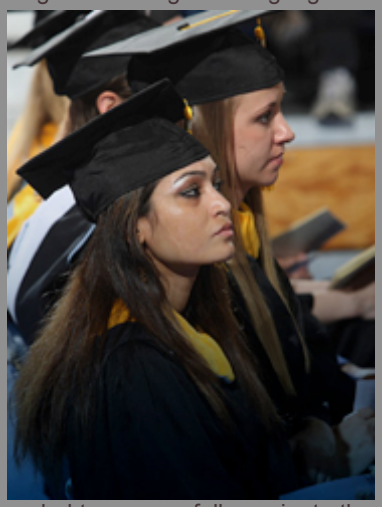
www.sdtribalrelations.com

Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations graduating high school seniors! As you consider your next steps, please know that college is a viable option. This experience can equip you for meaningful contributions to your community well into the future.



If you are considering college in any way, shape or form, you need to know that the South Dakota Jump Start program is here to assist you. Jump Start Access Advisor can walk you through the application process, answer questions regarding financial aid, and let you know what to expect on campus. If choosing a South Dakota public university or Oglala Lakota College, Access Advisors could also connect you with important (and free) support that is developed to provide students the additional reinforcement needed to successfully navigate the experience.

There is no fee to participate in South Dakota Jump Start. It provides a great Summer Bridge program, giving students the opportunity to earn some course credits and help them get acquainted to campus life before the regular school year starts. Earning summer credits allows students to take a lighter course load during the school year (if desired), which can leave time for work or involvement in student groups and intramural sports. Additionally, Jump Start provides services throughout the academic year, as well as summers after both freshmen and sophomore years. Previous summer bridge students have benefitted from earning those credits early, as well as dealing with the transition to college life, beginning the fall semester feeling at home on campus.

The features of the program include:

- FREE Summer Bridge experience beginning at the end of July where you will earn credits toward graduation; meet new friends, faculty and staff; and participate in weekend activities – that's FREE classes, textbooks, housing, meals and evening/weekend programming!
- Living Learning Community with other Jump Start Scholars and Peer Mentors during the year.
- Textbook Lending Library, including laptops.
- Earn and Learn during the summers after freshmen and sophomore years, which guarantees employment opportunities and summer course availability that will help you remain on track for graduation.
- Regular opportunities for you and your Jump Start Advisor to talk about how you can enhance your time in college and make your dreams reality.

It is not too late to make the choice to attend college in the fall. Call or email an Access Advisor today if you have any questions about college or the South Dakota Jump Start program: (844) 601-6957 or sdjumpstart@sdbor.edu.

From the Secretary

April has been a very busy month for the Department, and we are not looking at slowing down in May. April 21st saw Governor Daugaard visiting the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and meeting with Chairman Frazier and tribal leaders. Chairman Frazier and his staff were gracious hosts, and I appreciate the opportunity for the Governor to meet with tribal leaders in their homelands.

As we head into the summer months, I look forward to making more visits, working with tribes, and enjoying a South Dakota summer complete with fishing, boating, and fitting in a few cruises on the Harley.

If the Department can be part of your summer plans, please give us a call (605.773.3415) or contact me directly (Steve.Emery@state.sd.us).

Pictured are Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Legislative Aide Matt Vogel, Governor Dennis Daugaard, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Chairman Harold Frazier, SD Tribal Relations Secretary Steve Emery, and Senator Betty Olson.

The South Dakota Department of Indian Education is preparing for this fall's SD Indian Education Summit. Please save the date! We are now taking requests for proposals for our breakout sessions. If you have something to share please fill one out! Find the RFP's on our website at:

http://indianeducation.sd.gov/summit.aspx

The Native American Student Achievement Advisory Council

Back Row: Amy Boutchee, Dave Archambault, Senator Troy Heinert, Larry Mendoza, Anpao Duta Flying Earth, Stephanie Charging Eagle, Dr. Charlotte Davidson, Dr. Urla Marcus 2nd Row: Gordon Jones, Tuffy Lunderman, Roger Bordeaux, Maurice Twiss, Duane Ross, Dr. Sherry Johnson, Dr. Nadine Eastman 1st Row: Linda Foos, SD Secretary of Education Melody Schoop, Dr. Karen Gayton Comeau, and SD Indian Education Director Lowell Amiotte. Not pictured: Rep. Shawn Bordeaux, Secretary of Tribal Relations Steve Emery, Beau LeBeaux, Stacy Phelps, Jesse Taken Alive, and Nick Tilsen.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2015-02

WHEREAS, Schools in South Dakota play a vital role in educating and preparing future generations for postsecondary education and careers; and,

WHEREAS, Native American students have been identified in South Dakota to be at risk for low achievement levels and failure to graduate; and,

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper for the groups involved in the education of at-risk Native American students should undertake a study of methods to improve the achievement levels and graduation rates of these students:

IT IS, THEREFORE, BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, directed that the Native American Student Achievement Advisory Council is hereby established, with the following provisions:

Section 1. The council shall consist of representatives from the Indian Education Advisory Council, the Department of Education, the Department of Tribal Relations, education groups, tribal leaders, individual educators, community members, and parents.

Section 2. The Native American Student Achievement Advisory Council shall examine the following issues:

(1) Factors affecting achievement of students;

(2) Effect of non-traditional schools on student achievement;

(3) Methods of financing, establishing, and authorizing non-traditional schools; and

(4) Other related issues as determined by the council.

Section 3. The council shall report its findings to the Legislature and the Governor no later than December 1, 2015.

Section 4. The Department of Education shall have administrative authority and the authority to receive and expend funds for the purposes in this executive order.

Dated in Pierre, South Dakota, this Second day of February, 2015.

Dennis Daugaard, Governor of South Dakota

Attest:

Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State

The Native American Student Achievement Advisory Council met for the first time April 28-29 at the Capitol Lake Visitor Center in Pierre.

The Governor issued an executive order establishing the council in February. The council will work to identify strategies for improving achievement and graduation rates among South Dakota's Native American students and report its findings to the Legislature and the Governor by Dec. 1, 2015.

"Native American students in South Dakota attend public, non-public, tribally operated and Bureau of Indian Education schools," said Gov. Daugaard. "Thus, the responsibility for providing them educational opportunities is shared among individuals and local, state, tribal and federal governments. I am confident this group will help us move forward with a common vision for ensuring their success."

The Bush Foundation will be funding the council's work. The Bush Foundation is based in St. Paul, Minnesota, and serves the 23 Native nations and the states of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Members of the council shared their thoughts during the introductions at the two-day meeting; Jesse Taken Alive from the Standing Rock Reservation thanked the governor for his proclamation and expressed, "The children are waiting for us. What are we going to bring home? What kind of message? What kind of hope?"

Pictured:
SD Secretary of Education Melody Schopp gives an overview of current education assessments.

Advisory council members break out into work groups.

Bush Foundation Representative Elli Haerter addresses the advisory council.

State Tribal Relations Committee

Rep. Shawn Bordeaux (D)
District 26A (
Mellette, Todd)

Senator Jim Bradford (D)
District 27 (Bennett, Haakon, Jackson, Pennington, Shannon)

Senator Troy Heinert (D)
District 26
(Mellette, Todd)

Rep. Steve Hickey (R)
District 09
(Minnehaha)

Rep. Kevin Killer (D)
District 27 (Bennett, Haakon, Jackson, Pennington, Shannon)

Rep. Elizabeth May (R)
District 27 (Bennett, Haakon, Jackson Pennington, Shannon)

Senator Betty Olson (R)
District 28 (Butte, Corson, Harding, Dewey, Ziebach, Perkins)

Senator Ernie Otten (R)
District 06 (Lincoln)

Rep. Lee Qualm (R)
District 21 (Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Gregory, Tripp)

Senator Craig Tieszen (R)
District 34 (Pennington)

Poignee is Legislative Page...

TC Senior Jordan Poignee says his experience working in the capitol building as page this year was "one of the best I've ever had."

"Being a page at the last session of the year meant I got to sit in on some important meetings – meetings that could possibly change how our state operates and changes throughout the year," he said.

Jordan said that before he had this experience he really didn't care for politics and how government works. But he soon realized that the legislators and senators are really important to the people and the system of South Dakota.

"Working in politics made me want to maybe run for the legislature some day," he said. "I've met some amazing people and made some good friends."

Article form Todd County School District Dreamcatcher, April 2015, page 25

The State Tribal Relations Legislative Committee had its first meeting April 23, 2015. The committee elected new officers for the year. Senator Troy Heinert was elected chairman of the committee and Representative Shawn Bordeaux was elected as vice-chairman.

Pictured is SD Tribal Relations Secretary Steve Emery giving the committee an update of the Department of Tribal Relations' activities.

Remembering an Icon

Michael Jandreau - Lower Brule Sioux Tribe

Chairman Jandreau at the 2012 State Tribal Relations Day Ceremony

Governor Dennis Daugaard, Chairman Jandreau, Chairman Brandon Sazue, & President Bryan Brewer -2012

Chairman Jandreau and former SD Tribal Relations Secretary JR LaPlante - 2014

Chairman Jandreau at the 2015 State Tribal Relations Day Ceremony

Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Chairman Bruce Renville, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Chairman Jandreau, and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Chairman Dave Archambault II - 2015

As we take a moment to remember Michael Jandreau, Chairman of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe for over 30 years, we share some of his thoughts this past February during the 2015 State Tribal Relations Ceremony.

"I've had the good fortune, I hope… of being able to serve the people of Lower Brule for many, many years. And I've watched with a great deal of enthusiasm and positivity the evolution. However, sometimes the evolution goes two steps forward and one step back, or three or four back in some cases. Under Mr. Daugaard's administration he has truly… tried his best… to make things work… for all South Dakotans, and I admire him and I thank him, I'm grateful to him for that. The real positivity of what has occurred though must become fully explained and accepted by our reservation populations and themselves… So even though I've been known to talk about a lot of things negatively, hopefully this time my message is… there is hope… in what we're doing and what we're doing together. Thank you." Michael Jandreau – February 26, 2015 State Tribal Relations Ceremony

South Dakota Fire Department Certification Process 2015

Fire departments are reminded that the fire department certification process is underway for 2015. All South Dakota fire departments should have received certification packets that will need to be completed and returned by the deadline. We use this information for a number of different reasons:

- Fire Departments that meet minimum requirements qualify to receive funding from the fire insurance premium tax. This insurance premium tax money is distributed to counties, which in turn divide the funding up and allocate it to all the certified fire departments serving that county. Counties use the fire department's response areas, property values and population served as a guide for this funding allocation. **Reference South Dakota Codified Laws 10-44-9.2 and 10-44-9.5**.
- Information is used to update our main contact list: fire department addresses & phone numbers, fire chief, secretary & other contact information. This information is especially needed after new officers or leaders have changed. We use this contact information to send out information, training announcements (district fire schools, state fire schools, etc.) and to perform emergency callouts if needed during a disaster.
- The roster sent in from your fire department is used by the Department of Revenue to verify those persons that are able to apply for "SD Firefighter" license plates. These license plates are supposed to be returned when any firefighter is no longer a member of a fire department.
- Included again this year is an "age" section on the roster. This information is being used to study age demographics in the South Dakota Fire Service. These trends are being tracked in an effort to help services plan and tackle future recruitment and retention challenges.

Please make sure your department has filled out and returned these documents to us no later than **May 31st, 2015**. If your department has not received any of these forms please contact the State Fire Marshal's Office by calling 605.773.3562.

State Fire Marshal's Office • South Dakota Department of Public Safety

Wildfire Preparedness

The best time to plan and prepare for a fire is long before you see or smell the smoke. Updates and upgrades to your home, yard and property do not have to be expensive, or extremely time consuming. Actually, it is not much more than doing usual maintenance or upkeep around your home, yard and property.

According to Andrew Tate, Urban Interface Specialist, from the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Division of Wildland Fire in Rapid City, fire season typically occurs during summer months. However, the past few years have been so dry that the fire season lasts nearly all year long. "Winters aren't what they used to be, they are shorter and warmer with less moisture," said Tate.

Fire prevention is about more than just trimming trees or removing them altogether. Thinning trees and removing highly flammable shrubs and bushes can make the difference between a lower intensity fire on the surface and an uncontrollable crown fire. Maintaining your yard and property has multiple applications and benefits in addition to fire safety. Thinning trees can make them healthier and more resistant to disease and insects, and mowing and watering the grass provides an area around your home that can slow or even stop a fire from getting up to the foundation.

A few more beneficial suggestions for around your home and yard include:

- Mow grass to less than 4" around your home
- Average tree crown spacing of 30 feet and sparse juniper and other coniferous shrubs
- Encourage deciduous tree growth
- Keep firewood and propane tanks at least 30 feet from your home and maintain a clear area around them
- Use driveways, retaining walls, sidewalks, and patios as fuel breaks

Don't forget one important step when planning for fires; Create a Disaster Plan. Make sure everyone who is living in or visiting your home knows the designated meeting place if a fire does make it close to your home and you need to evacuate. Having an escape plan can save the lives of your loved ones. According to the Firewise Home brochure, you should also include details for pets, large animals and livestock in your Disaster Plan. Have your cell phones programmed with emergency numbers and have tools such as a shovel, rake, axe, handsaw or chainsaw available and make sure there is an emergency water source accessible to you. If you are ever feeling unsafe due to an encroaching fire, leave early, but don't return until the fire is out. Do not wait to be evacuated. For more information about having a Firewise Home, visit www.firewise.org.

Pilot Parole Supervision Program

The establishment a pilot parole supervision program that would allow more Native Americans to return to the reservation while on parole is a major component of the South Dakota Public Safety Improvement Act.

Former Tribal Relations Secretary J.R. LaPlante and Secretary of Corrections Denny Kaemingk met with seven different tribes throughout the summer of 2013 to discuss the concept and gauge interest in a joint pilot program with the state. The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate (SWO) Tribal Council expressed interest and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was developed between the state and the tribe.

Ultimately, the goal of the pilot project is to reduce the recidivism (return to prison) rate of Native American offenders and improve public safety. Key elements of the agreement include case management of parolees on reservation lands by a tribal liaison parole agent, a multi-disciplinary case management team structure, the use of evidence-based practices and a system of graduated sanctions and incentives to respond to a parolee's conduct.

The tribe set up a wellness team to determine which parolees would participate in the pilot. Parolees are able to access tribal mental health, substance abuse and housing resources.

Northeast Region Parole Supervisor Brad Lewandowski worked with the tribe to develop a sanctioning grid for those who fail to abide by conditions of their supervision. He also works closely with Tribal Agent Douglas Williams, who is required to use supervision strategies that focus on reducing recidivism and employ evidence-based practices and swift, certain and proportionate sanctions.

The tribal agent is housed in the same building as the Tribal Police Department. Office supplies and a state vehicle were provided by the DOC. The tribal agent utilizes the same Comprehensive Offender Management System as state parole agents. SWO worked with local law enforcement to secure a weapon and safety equipment based on DOC specifications.

The state reimburses the tribe for the salary, benefits, and expenses of the liaison officer. The Department of Corrections (DOC) pays for jail days if a parolee has a problem where jail time is used as a sanction. The Tribal Police Department provides 24/7 program services for parolees.

"This is not something we're going to do to the tribe. It's not something we're going to do for the tribe. This is something we're going to do with the tribe," Kaemingk said.

As of February 28, there were 38 parolees participating in the program.

Twenty-nine percent of the inmates in the state's adult prison system are Native American.

Nearly 70 percent of the state's parole absconders are Native Americans who are currently believed to have returned to reservation lands.

FY 2015 Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program

The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is now taking applications for the FY 2015 Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program. Grant applications must be submitted by the May 19, 2015, deadline. Ten million dollars in grant funds is available to eligible tribes nationwide for projects and equipment that enhances tribal preparedness for all hazards.

This grant is available directly from DHS; the state of South Dakota is not involved in the implementation of this particular grant. For more information on the 2015 Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program, please visit www.grants.gov, or call the grants.gov customer support hotline at (800) 518-4726.

(Picture from 2013 Tribal STIP Meeting)

Save the Date!

Tribal Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan Meeting
June 10, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. (CDT) in Pierre
Becker-Hansen Bldg. Commission Room (700 E. Broadway Ave.)

Each year the SD Department of Transportations hosts the Tribal STIP meeting in Pierre. This meeting is designed for department staff to consult with Tribal representatives about its upcoming 4-year plan for highway construction projects. It also gives the Tribes the opportunity to share what highway construction projects are in their plans for the upcoming years. This meeting is also an open forum for Tribes to discuss any transportation-related issue with SDDOT staff.

The BIA and Federal Highway Administration (FWHA) also have staff that attends the meeting to address concerns about the Tribal Transportation Program.

Secretary of Transportation, Darin P. Bergquist, moderates the meeting. Secretary Bergquist looks forward to this meeting and the opportunity to hear directly from Tribal representatives about their accomplishments and concerns.

The group meeting is a follow-up to the annual meeting the department holds with each Tribe yearly. These individual meetings give the department the time to have one-on-one discussions and focus on the particular needs of each Tribe. The group meeting held in June is a chance for all parties to discuss matters as a group. It's a great exchange of ideas and networking for Tribal transportation leaders and SDDOT staff.

This year's meeting is being held on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 1:30pm (CDT) in Pierre at the Becker-Hansen Commission Room (700 E. Broadway Ave.). Interested parties are encouraged to attend.

The South Dakota 9-1-1 Coordination Board is working on a statewide 9-1-1-modernization project. The current 9-1-1 system has become outdated and is based on telephone technology from the 1970s and 1980s. The rapid expansion of technology over the past several years has left 9-1-1 in our communities largely unable to take advantage of many technological advancements that could improve 9-1-1 and public safety in our state.

This past winter, the Board entered into contracts with two vendors for the Next Gen 9-1-1 System. GeoComm will be creating a statewide, seamless Geographic Information System (GIS) dataset which is necessary in the NG911 system to route 9-1-1 calls to the correct PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point), otherwise known as a 9-1-1 center. The data collection process is well underway, having collected existing GIS data from most of the counties in South Dakota. The second contract is with TeleCommunications Systems (TCS) and they are providing the statewide-hosted, 9-1-1 phone system or CPE (Customer Premise Equipment). This statewide-hosted phone system will have two host sites located in Rapid City and Sioux Falls. These dual host sites will provide the redundancy needed to ensure we have a fail-safe 9-1-1 system. If one host site for some reason is not functioning, the other host site will continue to route 9-1-1 calls to the appropriate PSAP. Each of the PSAPs in the state will be transitioned over to the new CPE over the next 18 months. Once the PSAPs are on the new phone system, we will then deploy the statewide Emergency Services Internet Protocol Network (ESInet). This network will improve interoperability among the PSAPs with automatic re-route of calls, transfers, and backups to ensure no call goes unanswered. In addition, the NG911 system will open the door for other features, such as Text To 9-1-1, and sending pictures related to an emergency.

It is the Board's desire to see all persons living within the state benefit from this project by having access to the Next Generation 9-1-1 System. The Board invites your PSAP to participate in this project. If you are interested, please contact the State 9-1-1 Coordinator, Shawnie Rechtenbaugh, at 605-773-8145 or Shawnie.rechtenbaugh@state.sd.us.

Oglala Lakota College Administers Educational Opportunities with Support from USDA

USDA Rural Development recently awarded a Tribal College Initiative Grant to Oglala Lakota College (OLC) in Kyle. OLC matched the $145,301 grant with the required 5% or $7,266 for Instructional Center equipment, Piya Wiconi Renovation and Instructional Center renovation.

Prior to submission of the grant, administrators had met with the Center Directors for the 9 Instructional Centers on the Pine Ridge Reservation and asked what they needed to improve the physical condition of their centers and upgrade learning outcomes. Based on Center Director input OLC purchased 35 white boards, 216 stack chairs, 12 office chairs, 75 folding tables, 4 office desks, 7 doors, and 14 TVs. These were to replace outworn or damaged equipment. The TVs were to upgrade access to videos and video conferencing.

"Oglala Lakota College would like to thank USDA for the Community Facilities Tribal College emphasis program," said Thomas Shortbull, President of Oglala Lakota College. "Over the past 12 years the program has helped us remodel and build Head Start classrooms, make our facilities ADA compliant, and keep up with the ongoing maintenance that over 1,800 students make necessary for our 9 Instructional Centers and our administrative hub at Piya Wiconi. The latest grant has enabled us to upgrade equipment for instruction including white boards and monitors for teleconferencing. We are also replacing worn out flooring in classrooms, leveling floors, and remodeling a student kitchen area."

OLC operates a decentralized learning model where faculty travels to the Instructional Centers to reduce travel for the students. OLC Main Administration, Learning Resource Center, Science Building, Historical Center and Bookstore are housed on the Piya Wiconi Complex outside of Kyle, SD in the center of the Reservation.

The main building was built in 1980 and needs ongoing renovation after 35 years. This year HVAC units in the College Apartment (used for meetings) and Education Department Office were replaced.

The struggle to maintain and upgrade the over 35 buildings is constant. Shortbull added, "We have a small Maintenance Endowment and use the income from this. We also budget Maintenance Funds from our regular budget but the USDA Community Facilities funds are a godsend each year allowing us to allocate more funds for instruction and student support."

Other recipients receiving funding in 2014 from the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Tribal College Initiative grant program include: Sinte Gleska University in Mission received $120,000 to purchase student buses; and Sisseton Wahpeton College (SWC) in Sisseton received $125,549 to enhance the SWC facility by providing funding for student housing.

USDA Rural Development is pleased to partner with Tribal Colleges to provide funding for infrastructure and equipment. The application deadline is May 30th. For additional information, please contact Doug Roehl at 605-352-1142. Growing the economy by investing in rural communities and increasing opportunities for families is key to our Nation's future.

Rural Development Program

Program	Application Deadline(s)
Rural Energy for America (REAP) 2015	4/20/2015; 6/30/2015
Rural Business Development Grant (formally known as RBEG & RBOG)	05/08/2015 for Native American Set-Aside; 06/05/2015 for Non Set-Aside applications
Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program	Quarterly deadlines.
Intermediary Relending Program	Quarterly deadlines.
Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program	Monthly deadlines.
Value Added Producer Grant	To be announced.
Small Socially Disadvantaged Grant	To be announced.
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.

South Dakota Board on Geographic Names May Meeting Dates on Proposed Name Change for Harney Peak in Pennington County

May 5, 2015 (Tuesday)
Flandreau, SD 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (CDT)
Royal River Hotel – Royal Room
607 S. Veterans Street

May 6, 2015 (Wednesday)
Pierre, SD 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (CDT)
SD Cultural Heritage Center
900 Governors Drive

For more information, contact David Reiss at 605-773-3415.

What does ASPIRE mean for Native American youth with disabilities?

ASPIRE stands for Achieving Success by Promoting Readiness for Education and Employment. It is a six-state consortium implementing the U.S. Department of Education's Promise Initiative of advancing the self-sufficiency of youth receiving SSI (Supplemental Security Income) and their families. Arizona, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Utah are partnering to recruit and enroll 2,000 youth, ages 14-16, who receive SSI. The ASPIRE Project has enrolled 517 youth so far, 68 of whom are from South Dakota. Of the 68 South Dakotans, 31% are Native American youth.

ASPIRE is a research study with the goal of comparing youth who access current services with youth who receive enhanced services. All enrolled youth and families will be provided with resources to explore and opportunities to pursue further education and employment as well as to improve their overall financial situation. Youth are randomly assigned to either the ASPIRE Services Group or the Usual Services Group. The youth and families randomly assigned to the ASPIRE Services Group will receive enhanced services to promote increased education, employment and independent living. These services begin after enrollment and will continue through Sept. 30, 2018.

ASPIRE has received research approval from four tribes in South Dakota: Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, Oglala Lakota Nation, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Recruitment and enrollment is currently being conducted on the Oglala Lakota Nation Reservation. Youth and families who choose to enroll will have the opportunity to be part of this demonstration project that may impact how services are provided in the future.

ASPIRE staff promote the project to partners across the state by hosting informational meetings. If you would like to hear more about the ASPIRE Project, please contact Mary Livermont, ASPIRE site coordinator, at (800) 224-5336 or (605) 224-6287, ext. 514.

SDSU Extension: Healthy Food, Healthy Families, Healthy Communities

This program is a collaborative effort towards food sovereignty and security, economic self-sufficiency, and improved nutritional status for Native Americans on South Dakota Reservations. SDSU Extension will work closely with the tribes to develop local coalitions on the reservations over the next three years to provide and/or facilitate educational/training programs in home gardening & commercial horticulture, ranch management & livestock production, small acreage farming operations, safe food-handling and preservation, value-added food processing, native/traditional foods, and nutrition & wellness.

With funding assistance through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance-Education (SNAP-Ed) program, SDSU Extension will facilitate the development of community-based **Wellness Coalitions** in six South Dakota (SD) high obesity counties (Bennett, Buffalo, Campbell, Corson, Union, and Ziebach) and seven American Indian reservations (Cheyenne River, Corson, Crow Creek, Lower Brule, Pine Ridge, Rosebud, & Yankton Sioux) to prevent and reduce obesity of children, youth, and their families. In year one, SDSU Extension will engage these communities in a needs assessment process. The Wellness Coalitions will then develop and implement a strategic plan for their communities. In subsequent years, Extension will work to strengthen the capacity of the Wellness Coalitions.

Additionally, USDA Extension has received a three-year grant through USDA CREES **Beginning Farmer Rancher Development Program** to address food sovereignty and security on Pine Ridge, Rosebud and Cheyenne River Reservations. The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) has three goals: 1) to increase capacity among Native American producers in agricultural production, 2) to improve market availability of locally produced food and increase local food utilization, and 3) to increase community coalition capacity.

SDSU Extension will train up to 30 individuals in commercial livestock production and up to 60 individuals in commercial horticultural production systems, with optional training in small acreage livestock production. We will also provide beginning gardener training to home gardeners across the three reservations. These programs will engage mentors as well as Extension Specialists to provide support to participants during the course of the training. The horticulture/gardening programs will also utilize local gardening demonstration sites at which participants receive a hands-on learning experience.

Merlin Neumiller was recently hired as Project Coordinator for the Native American BFRDP. Merlin has extensive experience working with both the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Natural Resource Conservation Service on reservations in South Dakota as well as in other states. The first livestock production class is scheduled to begin on May 1, 2015 at SDSU's Cottonwood Range and Livestock Field Station, with 14 participants representing 10 beginning livestock operations. Commercial Horticulture classes are also scheduled to begin in early May.

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

Infant Mortality Rate Declines

For the second year, South Dakota saw a decline in the number of babies dying before their first birthdays. Data for 2014 recently released by the Department of Health shows 73 infant deaths in 2014 for a rate of 5.9 deaths per 1,000 live births. That's down from 2013's rate of 6.5 and below the previous 20-year lows of 6.3 in 2011 and 6.4 in 2007.

Early prenatal care, decreased tobacco use in pregnancy and safe sleep practices were some of the strategies recommended by the 2011 Governor's Task Force on Infant Mortality. That group was chaired by First Lady Linda Daugaard and its members have worked since then to implement the recommendations to reduce infant mortality and improve birth outcomes for South Dakota babies. Tribal health and Indian Health Services representatives served on the task force and collaboration continues to address infant mortality in the American Indian population. Additionally, the department's Tobacco Control Program and the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board continue to collaborate on tobacco education and prevention efforts, including the www.FindYourPowerSD.com website and resources.

If you have news you would like to share, please email:

Kathy.Aplan@state.sd.us

South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations

Visit our website: www.sdtribalrelations.com

And follow us on Facebook & Twitter!

Emergency Medical Services Moves To New Office

On April 20, the state's emergency medical services program moved to a new location and a new department. The program is now part of the Office of Rural Health in the Department of Health as the result of an executive order signed by Governor Daugaard earlier this year. It was previously part of the Department of Public Safety. The new address is:

Office of Rural Health,
Emergency Medical Services
South Dakota Department of Health
Robert Hayes Building
600 East Capitol Ave
Pierre SD 57501-2536

The telephone number remains 605-773-4031 and the fax number is 605-773-5683. The new website address is http://doh.sd.gov/providers/ruralhealth/EMS/.