# SD Department of Tribal Relations

Issue # 10 November 2015

## From the Secretary

During the month of November, the Department joins the country in celebrating National Native American Heritage Month. With the onset of the holidays and special times with friends, families, and loved ones, I urge everyone to remember with reverence the continent's first people and their families.

The Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota people of the Great Plains are still here, still vibrant, creative, and still making history. Some history that we may reflect upon is hurtful, and brings sadness and regret. Some history is powerful, victorious, and inspirational. It is a complex history that should not be forgotten.

As we look back on these events, remember… ***we*** are the ones making tomorrow's history. Let's make a history that our children's children can look back on with pride, and know together we made the world a better place.

SD Tribal Relations Secretary Steve Emery

Secretary Emery's Hunt Team

Del Ray German of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate

Secretary Hepler and Del Ray German of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate

October 23 & 24, 2015 The Governor's Pheasant Hunt is not only challenging but it is also a great networking opportunity. Joining the hunt were Del Ray German, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate and Matt Vogel, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

## Contact Us:

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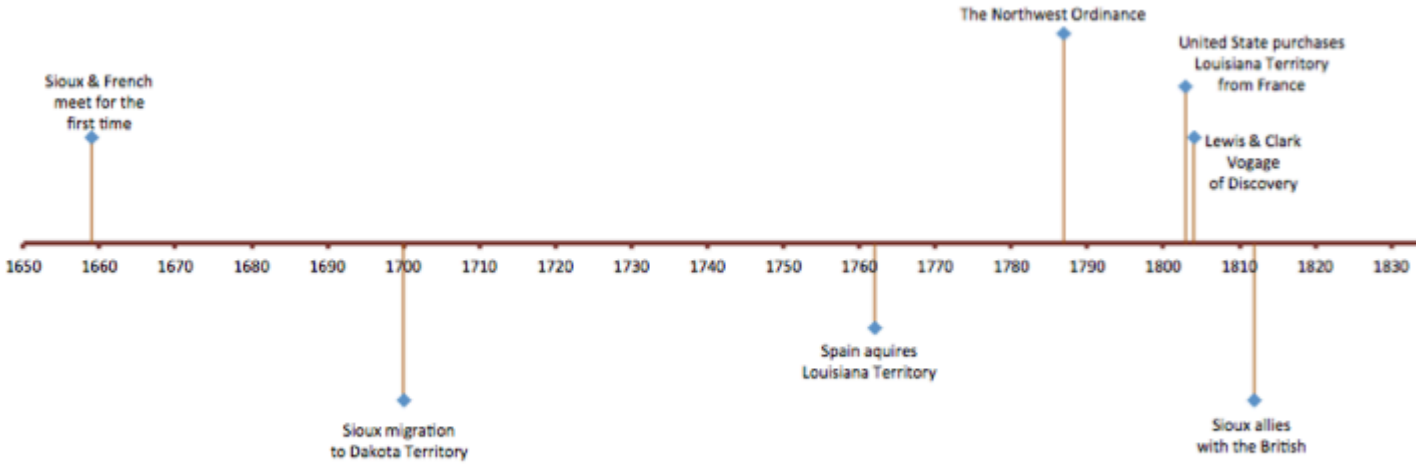
# Native American Heritage Month

## Where we have been…




In honor of Native American Heritage Month the SD Department of Tribal Relations has created a time-line that looks back over 365 years of history between cultures. Listed are some of the most significant events that have shaped where we are today. The Department of Tribal Relations looks forward with enthusiasm in creating a deeper understanding and respect for where we have been and how it has shaped our relationships today. Out of this understanding we can respectfully move forward and continue to build and strengthen this relationship.

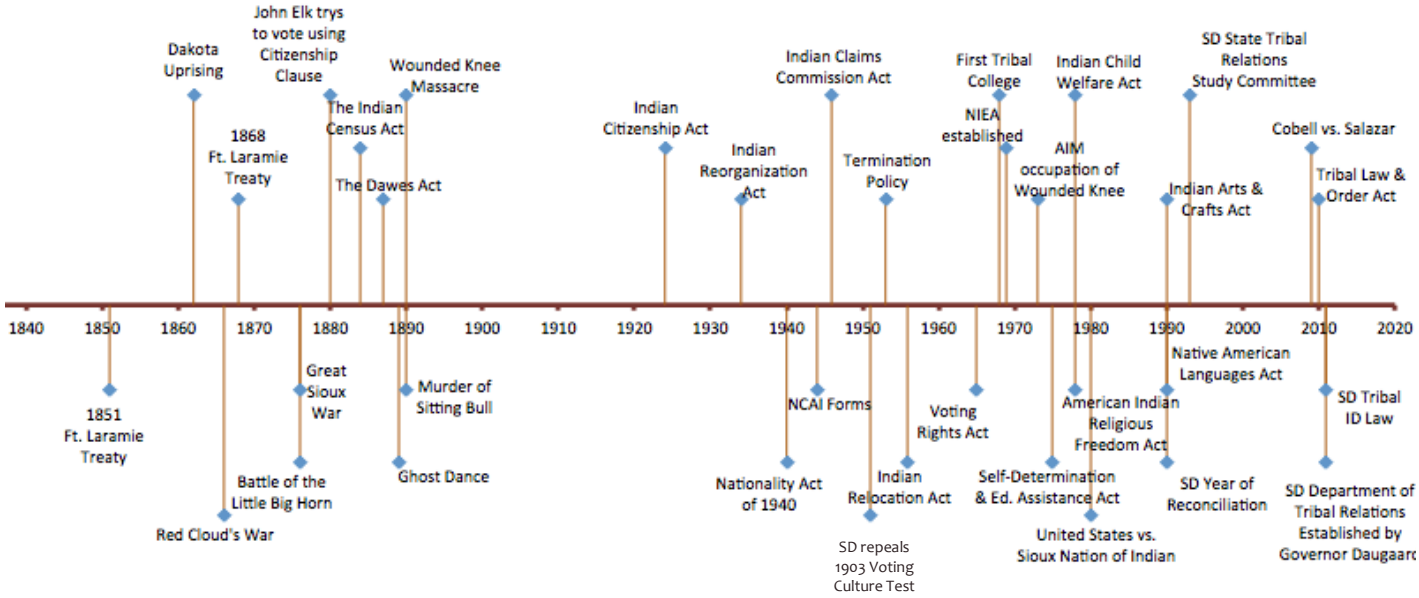
The Department of Tribal Relations is proud to have a role in building these relationships between the nine sovereign tribes that share South Dakota's borders and the State of South Dakota. Created by Governor Dennis Daugaard in 2011, the Department of Tribal Relations takes this role very seriously and the department's actions are defined by their mission statement:

Mission Statement

*It is the mission of the South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations to foster and improve the state tribal relationship, to recognize the nine sovereign tribes who share our geographical borders as distinct political entities, to support their self-governance efforts, and to work with their chosen leaders in a cooperative government-to-government relationship in order to improve the quality of life for all South Dakota citizens and serve as an advocate of the Native American population.*

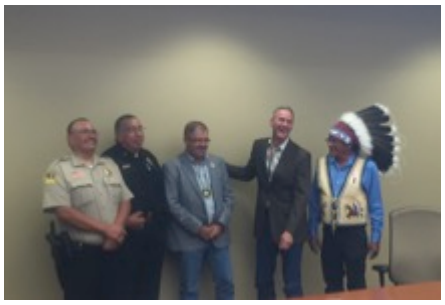
# Native American Heritage Month

## Where we are going…



Crow Creek BIA Police & SD State

Bear Butte



Governor Daugaard visits the Oglala Sioux Tribe

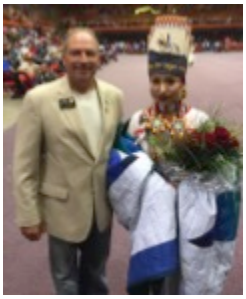
Chairmen Renville (Sisseton-Wahpeton), Jandreau (Lower Brule) and Archambault (Standing Rock)

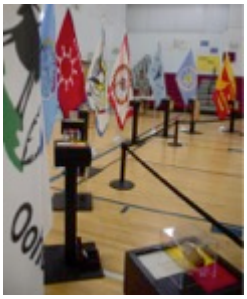
South Dakota State Capitol

SWO Chairman Renville & students from Tiospa Zina & Enemy Swim Schools

# SD Department of Veterans Affairs: Honoring Native American Heritage

A message from Secretary Larry Zimmerman, SD Department of Veterans Affairs





Traditionally, October and November have been two months that South Dakota celebrates and honors Native American Heritage.

During that time we have many opportunities to celebrate their rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions, achievements and sacrifices of Native people.

Native Americans have served our Nation, and theirs, in uniform with loyalty, patriotism, honor, courage, and sacrifice—for more than two centuries, in every war fought by the United States. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs reports that there are over 178,000 Native American Veterans.

South Dakota is fortunate to have seven tribal veterans service officers. I am grateful to have the opportunity to meet with these leaders at least quarterly and to hear first-hand about the unique challenges that Native American Veterans face.

In August I had the honor to recognize Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Veterans Service Officer Manaja Hill for his leadership. Hill was presented the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Service Officer of the year award for his outreach and his ability to network with partners and find resolutions to enhance the lives of their veterans.

Our Department, along with the South Dakota National Guard, created a traveling exhibit honoring South Dakota's Code Talkers. The exhibit has been in Pierre and Watertown and will be in Sioux Falls October 28 and at Crazy Hose on November 11.

Code talkers played a pivotal role in the successful U.S. efforts throughout the wars. It is important that we honor and highlight the memories of what they accomplished and ensure this history is not forgotten. Their code saved lives and gave the military a way to secretly convey its battle plans on America's way to victory.

I have had the distinct honor to be part of the Code Talker Memorial Planning Committee. This committee has been working on the design and funding of a permanent memorial in Pierre.

Let us keep the flame of their dreams alive—let us preserve the cultures and traditions in this land of the free and home of the brave. God bless those who serve and have served in uniform, and God bless this wonderful country of ours.

# Rosebud Tribal Health, IHS & State Health Department Work To Reduce Infant Death

The Maternal and Child Health Program in Mission and Rosebud IHS are partnering with the South Dakota Department of Health's Cribs for Kids program to provide safe sleep environments for infants. Safe sleep practices can reduce the risk of infant deaths due to SIDS and accidental suffocation and strangulation. The safest sleep position for babies is on their backs, alone in a crib with no pillows, blankets, toys or crib bumpers. Local IHS and tribal health staff has been trained to share information about safe infant sleep practices with families. If they identify a family in need of a safe sleep environment, the Department of Health provides a Safe Sleep kit, which includes a Pack 'n Play, a crib sheet, an infant sleep sack, and an infant book. Safe sleep kits are also available through Department of Health WIC offices across the state. The South Dakota Community Foundation accepts donations in support of the Department of Health Cribs for Kids program.

For more information about Cribs for Kids call the department's Office of Family and Community Health Services at 605-773-3361 or 1-800-738-2301. To learn more safe sleep practices, see the department's www.forbabysakesd.org website.

## Share your news!

Send it to the South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations
Newsletter Editor Kathy Aplan at:
Kathy.Aplan@state.sd.us

Find us on Facebook and
Follow us on Twitter!

## Upcoming Meetings & Events

**November 1st – 3rd**

South Dakota Indian Education Summit

**November 11th**

Veterans' Day

Code Talker Exhibit & Honoring Ceremony – Crazy Horse Monument

**November 17th & 18th**

Native American Student Achievement Advisory Council – Pierre, SD

**November 20th**

Tribal Economic Development Task Force – Pierre, SD

**November 26th & 27th**

Happy Thanksgiving
State Offices Closed

**December 14th**

Tribal Leaders Legislative Training II – Pierre, SD

**December 24th**

Christmas Eve
State Offices Close at Noon

**December 25th**

Merry Christmas
State Offices Closed

# Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
# Veteran's Day Wacipi

## November 13, 14, & 15, 2015

Dakota Magic Casino & Convention Center
Hosted by the SWO United Veterans Association

**Master of Ceremonies**
Jerry Dearly, St. Paul, MN
Vince Beyl, Bemidji, MN

**Host Drum**
Local Host-Ridge Runners

**Visiting Host**
IRON BOY

**Arena Directors**
Chaske LaBlanc, Lower Sioux, MN
DeWayne Boyd, Sisseton, SD

**Singing Judge**
Gabe Desrosiers, Ontario, CAN
Mike Greeley, Wilmot, SD

**Vendor Space Available**
Contact Danielle DeCoteau
(605) 268-1765

**Flag Registration**
Contact Jessie Chanku
(605) 956-0197

**Grand Entry**
Fri-7pm, Sat-1 & 7pm, Sun-1pm

**Registration**
Opens Fri-4pm, Closes Sat-11am

**Youth Hand Games**
Friday - Registration @ 6pm
Contact Everett BlackThunder
(605) 924-0191

**ALL VETERANS GROUPS WELCOME!**

**Prize Money**
Golden Age (55 & over)
$800, $700, $600, $500, $400
Adults (18-54)
Traditional, Chicken, Jingle, Grass, Shawl, & Fancy Feather
$800, $700, $600, $500, $400
Teens (13-17)
$400, $300, $200, $100, $50
Jrs (8-12)
$200, $100, $75, $50, $25
Tiny Tots (0-7) in Regalia
Day Money

**Women's Old Style Jingle Special**
In Memory of Madeline Renville
30yrs+ - 3 Places - Prize Money & Jackets

**Chicken Dance Special**
In Honor of Gabe Desrosiers, Jr.
18yrs+ - Saturday nite Spotlight Special
$500, $300, $200

**Hand Drum Contest**
Other Specials TBA

**Singing Contest**
$3,000, $2,000, $1,000, $800, $600

**Drum Split $5,000**
For Registed Non-Contest Drums

**Moccasin Tournament**
$1,000, $800, $600, $400
Contact Felix Renville
(605) 290-5075
Registration Saturday @ 10am

No Drugs, Alcohol or Firearms Allowed
Not Responsible for Lack of Funds, Injury, Lost or Stolen Items

Dakota Magic Casino & Hotel

Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Lake Traverse Reservation

# Heritage & Hope

By Rep. Kristi Noem

Native American heritage is woven into South Dakota's story. Tribal traditions have enriched our culture and played an important role in the American journey. Preserving these living cultural treasures for generations to come should be a priority and a responsibility each of us share.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit with a number of young people on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Their stories about the epidemic of suicide in the community were heartbreaking. They spoke about hopelessness. In their eyes, you could see a sadness that was hard to ignore. They told me stories about friends and loved ones who had taken their own lives – and some explained they had tried to do the same. It was an experience that made me hug my own family a little tighter when I got home that night.

Lakota Instructions for Living teaches that "the hurt of one is the hurt of all. And the honor of one is the honor of all. And whatever we do affects everything in the universe." I felt the hurt of these young people that day. I felt the hurt of a community whose spirit has been bent, although not broken.

I recognize there are no words to wipe away the pain these kids have had to experience, but I'm committed to working with these young people and tribal leaders to pave a more hopeful future for them.

For instance, I will be closely collaborating with tribal leaders to make sure the programs and grants in use today are working. If we find there are ways to improve them, I'm dedicated to doing that. If there are better options out there, I'm devoted to pursuing them.

I will also be looking at opportunities to make more after-school and job-training programs available to Native American youth. Shortly after visiting Pine Ridge, I spent time at the Rosebud Boys and Girls Club. The after-school program they implemented blew me away. It gave the kids access to tutors and had activities to keep them busy. It was an incredible sight to see and you could tell instantly what the program meant to these young people. We need more programs like that.

As we celebrate Native American Heritage Month, I will be very focused on helping young people find continued inspiration from their heritage and a new hope for the future. I am truly honored to be a part of this effort and I look forward to watching these young men and women live out their proud Native American heritage here in South Dakota.

Noem in Pine Ridge before holding two roundtables (Oct. 2015)

Noem reads to class at Red Cloud Indian School (Oct. 2015)

Noem Visits Rosebud Boys & Girls Club (Oct. 2015)

# SD Jump Start Student Spotlight

The South Dakota Jump Start program is a grant funded program that helps students access and succeed in college. The program began in July 2015 when students first appeared on college campuses and participated in a Summer Bridge program.

The Summer Bridge provided students an opportunity to come to college early and take courses while getting adjusted to campus life. The Summer Bridge included free college credits and room & board. As part of the SD Jump Start program students have many additional benefits that they are able to utilize throughout the school year and following summers.

Now that the first group of SD Jump Start students are attending classes and adjusting to life as college students, we would like to introduce a few of these students who successfully made the "jump" from their homes to their new campuses.

The SD Jump Start program is currently looking to recruit high school seniors to participating institutions for next school year. Institutions participating in the SD Jump Start program include the state universities and Oglala Lakota College. For more information, call a Jump Start Access Advisor at (844) 601-6957 or email sdjumpstart@sdbor.edu.

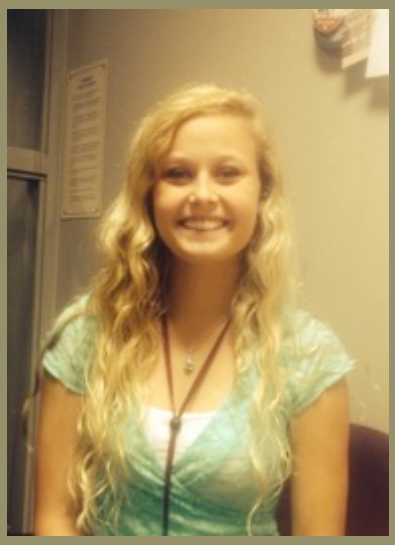
## *Clay LaPlante*

Clay is a Kinesiology major at the University of South Dakota. Originally from Eagle Butte, he graduated from Cheyenne-Eagle Butte High School and is the first in his family of six to attend college. The oldest child, Clay grew up on a ranch where he says he always worked for what he wanted. "If I had a goal, I set my mind to it and did it." He adds that as the eldest, he was pushed the hardest, stating that his younger siblings call him their biggest inspiration.

When asked how he decided to go to college, Clay talks about his buddy, a physical therapist who really likes to lift weights and train. He talked with Clay about his experience, and after that conversation Clay decided he needed a four-year degree – he wanted to go to college. Clay's family also plays into his decision – his grandmother told him that there are six physical therapists on his mom's side of the family. His mom and his dad are also major positive influences in Clay's life. "They taught me that I can achieve anything I want through hard work." Clay goes on to say "Great things come from humble beginnings. I appreciate things more when I work hard for them."

When asked what he would share with younger students who may be considering SD Jump Start and looking at college, Clay said, "Take it as it goes. Sometimes it gets frustrating but you just keep going."

## *Hannah Higdon*



A graduate of Dupree High School, Hannah grew up with her mother and sister. Hannah's father died when she was young, so her mother was the primary caregiver and financial supporter. Growing up on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in the small town of Dupree, Hannah knew from personal experience that college was expensive and at times confusing. "Jump Start helps with expensive costs and it eases you (into college) so you're ready," Hannah said. Hannah also points to her sister as another source of support. "My sister went to college but she dropped out. I saw how hard it was for her to find a decent job. It influenced me because I knew I needed an education to accomplish my goals."

Hannah hasn't decided on her major yet, but she knows she will get a degree with the support of Jump Start and her sister. "My sister supports me in everything I do. After dropping out of college she decided to go back…last semester she made the Dean's List and will graduate next spring…She encourages me to reach my goals!"

"Right now I don't know what I want to do," said Hannah, "but I do know I want to give myself the best opportunities possible. Education and experience will get me to where I need to go."

# SD Jump Start Student Spotlight

## *Jared Hamilton*

Jared is pursuing a BS Natural Science degree with a Conservation Biology major at Oglala Lakota College. He has lived in Minnesota and South Dakota, graduating from Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls in 2013. While high school graduation was a milestone in his life, Jared admits he wasn't being productive with his diploma. "I was just working here and there," he says. "I was wasting my time so I decided to learn and become independent." While both of Jared's parents attended college, neither of them graduated. Two of Jared's aunts, however, have played a role in motivating him to earn a college degree. "My Aunt Cheryl graduated with an Associate's degree in Business. I want to graduate." Jared stated. He also cited his Aunt Nargis Kabiri as the most positive influence in his life. "She took the women's basketball team to state and won it (in high school). After that she received a basketball scholarship to West Point and graduated from there to become a translator. She is persistent, motivated and determined to make a good change. I admire that about her," Jared states.

Jared's plans include graduating from college, having a home and a family and gaining a career that he loves so he can provide for himself and a family. His advice to younger students considering college? "School is fun. Once you are out of it, you will miss it, so enjoy your time in school – because I am!"

## *Donovan Kopetsky*

Donovan graduated from Aberdeen Central High school in his hometown of Aberdeen. He is attending Northern State University, a campus that he has strong family ties to, majoring in Psychology. According to Donovan, he decided to attend college because he "wanted to expand (his) knowledge base academically as well as socially."

Initially, Donovan decided to be a part of SD Jump Start because it was an opportunity to get free credits and experience "dorm" life on campus (during the Summer Bridge pre-college portion of the program). Donovan reflected that "the first day of class with strangers was exciting!" He made it through successfully, and is now in his first Fall Semester. Donovan is taking a full course load and has this advice for high school students considering a college career: "Take life by the horns and push forward to achieve something more than you thought possible!"

The South Dakota Department of Education cordially invites you to attend the 12th Annual Indian Education Summit, November 1-3, at the Ramkota Conference Center in Pierre.

This year's Summit will feature:

- Keynote speakers: Joseph Marshall III, and Donald Montileaux
- Presentations on best practices from local districts around the state
- Wide variety of topics preschool through post-secondary

To register and find more information, go to: indianeducation.sd.gov/summit.aspx or contact Marta Neuman at (605) 773-8194.

# Star Parties Planned at Devils Tower National Monument

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 a series of star parties October through 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.

**November 6th**

–Taurids Meteor Shower Festival –The peak of the Taurids meteor shower is close to the New Moon, which grants an incredibly dark, clear sky to gaze at the stars and watch the meteors.

**November 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.

**November 17th**

–Leonids Meteor Shower Festival –The Leonids meteor shower is known for its bright, colorful meteors, as well as magnificent fireballs –The waning crescent moon should leave skies dark enough for a wonderful showing of meteors. The meteors are radiant and travel 44 miles (71 kilometers) per second near the constellation Leo.

**November 25th**

–A Tour of Devils Tower in the light of the Full Moon –Usually at night we need flashlights to see, but during the Full Moon experience the trail will be illuminated by the Full Moon. A flashlight is recommended for those unpredictable situations. Meet the ranger for a guided walk on the Tower Trail for lots of truly unique views of Devils Tower.

**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 Geminis. The Geminis 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 Instagram at #devilstowernps

# Native American Day

By Senator Mike Rounds

In South Dakota, we celebrate Native American Day rather than the federal holiday known as Columbus Day. This historic state holiday originated in 1990 when Governor George S. Mickelson and members of the nine tribal governments in South Dakota proclaimed 1990 a Year of Reconciliation. This was our way of observing and honoring the rich and deep history of tribal people in our state. Our mutual goal was to engage the public and expose us all to Native American heritage and culture, acknowledge our challenges and yet commit ourselves to working together toward a brighter future.

Native Americans have a rich history in South Dakota. For many generations, Native Americans called our state home, long before Europeans settled in the West. South Dakota was originally a part of the vast territory of the Dakota, Lakota and Nakota people. Many other tribal nations include the Dakota Territory in their tribal histories.

Today, our state is home to nine tribal governments, comprising more than 70,000 Native Americans, each of which has a unique story to tell. Their traditions and customs are deeply woven into the fabric of our society. Our museums showcase ornate tribal art such as beadwork and star quilts. A **wacipi**, or *powwow,* is a gathering focused on dance, song and family. Wacipis celebrate the connections to spirituality and tradition. Wacipis are held throughout South Dakota, and the public is often welcome to attend. Many of our most recognizable landmarks are considered sacred by Native Americans and many South Dakota towns and sites bear traditional names.

While we are all South Dakotans, tribal governments are also sovereign nations, which creates and requires a special relationship between local, state and federal governments. At the federal level, I am committed to working with tribes to make certain their unique circumstances and challenges are being properly addressed.

Earlier this year, I met with tribal Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) to discuss the concerns of tribal veterans. Their input and feedback brought much-needed insight into the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I remain committed to holding the VA accountable to all our nation's vets across the country.

I've also been working to improve the education system in Indian Country, especially in rural and high-poverty areas. In some parts of the country, graduation rates at tribal schools are at 40 percent – half the national average. This is unacceptable. All children deserve access to a high-quality education system that prepares them for a prosperous and successful future. A provision I offered will help identify recruitment and retention options for teachers and administrators at tribal schools and analyze the limitations in funding sources. Earlier this year, it was unanimously adopted to the Every Child Achieves Act– the bipartisan education reform bill passed by the Senate.

Native Americans are not just a part of our history, they are a key part of our future. The customs and traditions of their culture guide and shape our state. I look forward to continuing to work with tribal governments to find ways to strengthen communities in Indian Country and improve the quality of life for all South Dakotans.

In South Dakota, we are honored to call the second Monday in October Native American Day.

# Highlights of the Great Sioux Horse Effigy Return Celebration

The Great Sioux Horse Effigy Return Celebration hosted an impressive list of speakers and artists to welcome its return. Master of Ceremonies Lt. Governor Matt Michels, Secretary of Tribal Relations Steve Emery, Director of the National Museum of the American Indian Kevin Gover, Gaylord Torrence – Senior Curator of American Indian Art at the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art and Francis Whitebird, Board of Trustees, South Dakota Historical Society.

Lakota and Dakota artists had demonstrations of their work and included Francis & Mary Country, Darlene Bogola, Mike Marshall, Marie High Bear, Jenn Carter, Alana Traversie and others.

If you missed these great events, you still have the opportunity to see the Great Sioux Horse Effigy featured in a new exhibit with dance sticks borrowed from the State Historical Society of North Dakota and the National Museum of the American Indian will be on display for two years.

# USDA Rural Development is Accepting Applications for the Rural Energy for America Program

USDA Rural Development wants to remind farmers/ranchers and small business owners that there's still time to submit an application for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) - energy grants to make energy efficiency improvements (lighting or HVAC upgrades, grain dryers, etc.) or to install renewable energy systems, including solar, wind, renewable biomass (including anaerobic digesters), small hydroelectric, ocean energy, hydrogen and geothermal. While applications are accepted year-round, the next funding deadline for projects under $80,000 is **October. 31, 2015**. For projects over $80,000 the deadline is **April 30, 2016**.

Eligible agricultural producers and rural small businesses may qualify for the REAP program, which provides a grant of 25% of the project cost or provides a guaranteed loan for up to 75% of the project cost. To be eligible, farmers need to get 50% of their income from farming. In addition, businesses must be classified as small according to the Small Business Administration (SBA) definition, which encompasses most businesses in South Dakota. Forty-eight South Dakota projects were awarded grants in Fiscal Year 2015.

Additional information on the REAP program and application forms can be located on the USDA Rural Development Rural Energy for America Program Website http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency/sd. For more information on how to apply for REAP funding in South Dakota, contact Darlene Bresson, USDA Rural Development Energy Coordinator, darlene.bresson@sd.usda.gov; (605) 886-8202, Ext. 120.

"This program helps increase American energy independence by increasing the private sector supply of renewable energy and decreasing the demand for energy through energy efficiency improvements," said Bresson. She continued, "Over time, these investments can also help lower energy costs for small businesses and agricultural producers, thereby improving the rural economy."

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. Continued ….

## Rural Development Program Deadlines

| Program | Application Deadline(s) |
|---|---|
| Rural Energy for America (REAP) | Applications accepted year round. |
| Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program (Formerly known as the Biorefinery Assistance Program) | Round one applications are due by October 1; and round two applications are due by April 1, 2016. |
| Business & Industry Loan Guarantees | Applications accepted year round. |
| Rural Business Development Grant (formally known as RBEG & RBOG) | Applications received after 06/5/2015 will be considered in 2016 funding. |
| Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program | Quarterly deadlines. |
| Intermediary Relending Program | Quarterly deadlines. |
| Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program | Monthly deadlines. |
| Value Added Producer Grant | Applications received after 07/07/2015 will be considered in 2016 funding. |
| Small Socially Disadvantaged Grant | 2016 application deadlines are unknown at this time. |
| Rural Community Development Grant | 2016 application deadlines are unknown at this time. |
| 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 |
| For additional program information, view the USDA Rural Development Programs Summary: | http://www.rd.usda.gov/files/RD_ProgramMatrix.pdf |

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 investments 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)*

# Tribal Leaders Legislative Training

In September, the Department hosted a tribal legislative training in Pierre for tribal leaders and program staff. Representative from five tribes were able to participate and the Department has received requests to host an additional training before session.

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.

## Four Bands Community Fund, Inc. Awarded Rural Business Development Grant

Agriculture Under Secretary Lisa Mensah announced 28 grants for $4.3 million to support business and economic development in Tribal communities in 14 states. Funding comes from the Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) program, which promotes the development of small and emerging businesses in rural areas. In South Dakota, Four Bands Community Fund, Inc. is receiving $99,995 to buy equipment and provide technical assistance. The project will help five businesses and is expected to create 12 jobs. USDA has designated the area for targeted assistance through the Strike Force for Rural Growth and Opportunity Initiative. Since USDA established StrikeForce in 2010, more than $16 billion in investments have been directed to the country's most economically challenged areas to create jobs, build homes, feed kids, assist farmers and conserve natural resources. For more information read the news release.

## "Now is the Time" Project Aware Training Initiative

The South Dakota Division of Behavioral Health Prevention Program has received a three year federal grant titled "Now is the Time" Project Aware Training Initiative. The focus of the grant is to increase the mental health literacy of adults who interact with 12 to 18 year old adolescents. The plan is to train 12 Behavioral Health professionals who are currently Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Instructors, to also become Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) instructors.

The project objectives include:

Objective 1: Increase the mental health literacy of youth-serving adults;

Objective 2: Increase the capability of youth-serving adults to respond to the behavioral health needs of youth in their community;

Objective 3: Foster and support referral of youth with behavioral health needs by linking youth to behavioral health support services;

Objective 4: Increase the number of collaborative partnerships with youth-serving agencies.