DEPARTMENT OF TRIBAL RELATIONS

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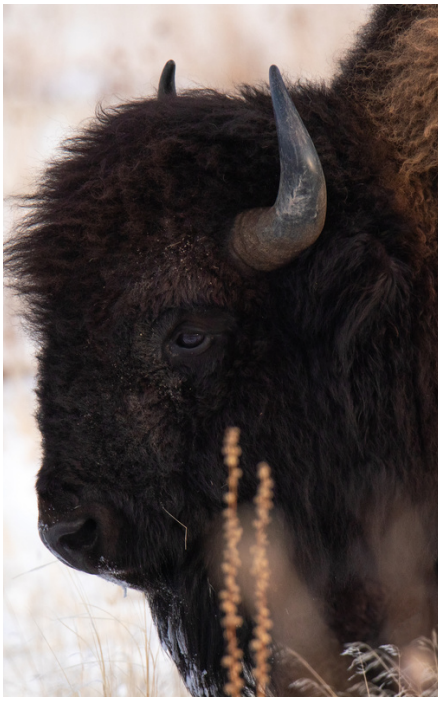


OUR DEPARTMENT'S MISSION

- Recognize the nine sovereign tribes who share our geographical borders as distinct political entities.
- Support their self-governance efforts.
- 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.
- Identify, develop and/or coordinate federal state and local resources to increase partnerships between state and tribal agencies.
- Introduce and/or support any legislation that would improve the quality of life for the Native American population in the state.

LETTER FROM SECETARY FLUTE

Department of Tribal Relations

Greetings,

I would like to share some thoughts and reflect on our ongoing work and efforts to assist Tribes in this final quarter of 2020:

On October 21st, 2020, we co-hosted State-Tribal Meth Summit III. This event was co-sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Social Services. We are very grateful to Secretary Gill and her team for their partnership, support, and the important work they do fighting the methamphetamine epidemic. We are also thankful for the tribal participation and support we received from our partners. As a former tribal chairman, I know how this problem affects our tribal communities and the encumbrance it lays upon tribal leaders. We must continue the dialogue and continue to create new partnerships to truly combat this drug problem. Meth is everyone's problem. More information about the meth summit can be found in this newsletter.

We continue to assist the South Dakota Department of Health and the efforts to address tribal needs and questions regarding the current pandemic. We are grateful for the collaboration of both our agencies and the engagement from tribes.

November is recognized as Native American Heritage month. The proud and rich history and culture of the Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota people of South Dakota has been and will continue to be interwoven into the fabric of this great state and contributes to our uniqueness.

The Office of Indian Education continues to focus on its mission by working closely with the Department of Education and collaborating with McREL/R11CC and REL-Central. The team at McREL/R11CC is forming the Innovation Configuration mapping component of the Wookiye Teacher Project, as well as the Bright Spots for SD DOE. The REL-Central team is generating and distributing a statewide Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings (OSEU) Needs Assessment Survey, relative to the Wookiye Teacher Project Bush Grant requirements. This year our goals will be to focus on assisting teachers and pilot schools to implement the South Dakota's OSEU and lesson plans and build a mentor program that focuses on leadership development for the first cohort of teachers. This is the first time an approach like this has been taken. We are very appreciative of this opportunity and have great expectations for our pilot schools and our Wookiye teachers.

In closing, I would like to congratulate all the newly elected and re-elected Tribal leadership across the state. I look forward to working with you and doing the best I can alongside my team to continue building state and tribal relationships.

Stay safe.

Cabinet Secretary,
David Flute

FROM THE

OFFICE OF INDIAN EDUCATION

GRADUATION IS COMING SOONER THAN YOU THINK!

Financial Aid and Scholarship Resources for Tribal Students

SCHOLARSHIPS

For Tribal Students

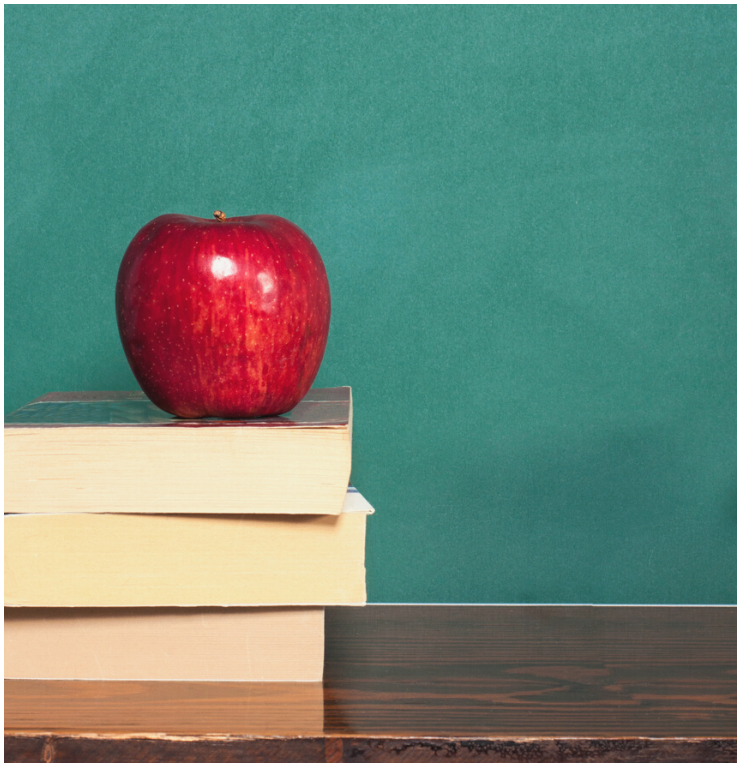
AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND
EDUCATION IS THE ANSWER

AMERICAN INDIAN GRADUATE CENTER
THE CENTER FOR NATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

HAVE YOUR 2021 GRADUATES COMPLETED THEIR FAFSA?

https://studentaid.gov/

It's never too early—or too late—to explore your options for college or career school. This site discusses key steps in preparing for college and provides resources that can help you along the way.



GOVERNOR NOEM ANNOUNCES K-12 CONNECT

10/27/2020

Governor Kristi Noem announced the launch of K-12 Connect, a program to provide internet service at no cost to eligible K-12 students in their homes for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

“Given the unprecedented disruption for many of our K-12 students, we want to make sure there isn’t a gap in learning this year,” said Governor Noem. “So many South Dakotans are stepping up to help, and I want to thank the South Dakota telecommunications companies that are teaming up with us to make this access possible.”

Eligible households will receive a letter this week indicating eligibility and identifying a telecommunications company to call to access free internet service through K-12 Connect. To enroll, eligible households must call the telecommunications company noted in their letter to set up service. Providers will install the necessary equipment on a first-come, first-serve basis. Internet service will be provided through June 30, 2021. After that time, the household must return the equipment to the provider or continue services at the household's expense.

READ MORE

UPCOMING NEEDS ASESSMENT SURVEY

Dept. of Education, Dept. of Tribal Relations, and REL-Central Partner to Gather Information from SD Educators to Improve Education for Native American Students Statewide

In January, the South Dakota Department of Education will invite all South Dakota K-12 educators to complete the state's first-ever Native American Needs Assessment. This survey was developed in partnership with the South Dakota Office of Indian Education, and the Regional Educational Laboratory Central (REL Central).

This survey is intended to gauge current awareness, knowledge, practice, and advocacy for the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings (OSEU). Survey data will inform targeted professional development, support, and guidance aimed at increasing statewide capacity to implement the OSEUs.

In addition to the OSEUs, the needs assessment will ask respondents about culturally responsive curriculum and instruction, equitable school climate, and professional development.

south dakota
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Learning. Leadership. Service.

"Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children."

-Sitting Bull

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

IN THE NEWS

METH SUMMIT III:

Connecting to Solutions

On October 21, the SD Department of Tribal Relations partnered with the SD Department of Social Services to host the third Meth Summit. This year's event was targeted toward addiction care providers that serve both Tribal regions and urban Native American populations. The goal of the event is to provide a training opportunity for addiction care professionals in order to continue fighting the methamphetamine epidemic.

Typically an in-person event, the 2020 Meth Summit was held virtually via Zoom. Keynote speaker Al Hasson, trainer for the Pacific Southwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center at the UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, shared his almost 40 years of experience working in drug dependency research and the psychology of addiction and rehabilitation.

Thomasine Heitkamp and Abby Moore from the HHS Region 8 ATTC also gave information and resources to attendees as well as assisted in the technical coordination of Meth Summit III.

Thank you to all those helped coordinate this event and all attendees. Together we can win the fight to get meth out of South Dakota and SD Tribal communities!

ANYONE. EVERYONE.

METH ADDICTION IS EVERYONE'S PROBLEM. HERE'S HOW TO FIGHT IT.

Call: 1.800.920.4343

Visit: onmeth.com

STORY LINKS

10/28 - Federal Response on Human Trafficking

10/27 - USDA Invests $138,400 in Fire and Protection on YST Reservation

10/26- USDA Invests Over $27 Million to Water Infrastructure on the CRST Reservation

10/21 - Administration Invests $3 Million to Preserve Native American Languages

10/10 - Signing of Savanna's Act and the Not Invisible Act

9/1 - Order Creating the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration

STORY LINKS

10/30 - Buffalo Arrive At Massive New Rosebud Range

10/22 - Rolling Rez Arts Bus helps aspiring artists on Pine Ridge

9/30- He Dog School Listed in National Register of Historic Places

9/2 - Once Tarnished Town Is Changing It's Legacy

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Stay Updated on COVID-19 News

CONGRATULATIONS

Reelected Native Legislators!

Tamara St John – House - District 01
Troy Heinert – Senate - District 26
Shawn Bordeaux – House - District 26A
Red Dawn Foster – Senate - District 27
Peri Pourier – House - District 27

NATIVE GOVERNANCE CENTER

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Celebrating Indian Country's cherished legacy, rich cultures, and heroic history of military service

During National Native American Heritage Month, we honor the storied legacy of American Indians and Alaska Natives in our Nation.

- Proclamation on National Native American Heritage Month, November 2020
- NativeAmericanHeritageMonth.gov
- Native American Heritage Month Specials on SDPB
- The Remarkable and Complex Legacy of Native American Military Service - Smithsonian

RESILIENT & ENDURING
WE ARE NATIVE PEOPLE.

January is Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention Month

What is "Human Trafficking"?

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery.
This crime occurs when a trafficker uses force, fraud, or coercion to control another person for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts, soliciting labor, or other services against his/her will.

Who is at risk of being Trafficked?

It affects all populations: adults, children, men, and women of all races and economic classes.
However, traffickers often target children, teenagers, or young adults with a history of sexual abuse, family dysfunction, low self-esteem, drug abuse, poverty, and/or minimal social support.
Runaway and homeless youths are at particularly high risk for becoming victims.

Where is this happening?

Here. Right here, in South Dakota.

Statistics about Human Trafficking in South Dakota

Learn More from HHS Administration for Children & Families

10 Ways You Can Help End Human Trafficking

Myths and Facts About Human Trafficking

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

1 (888) 373-7888

SMS: 233733 (Text "HELP" or "INFO")

Available 24 hours, 7 days a week

UPCOMING EVENT

You're Invited to Attend:

State-Tribal Relations Day 2021

SD State Capitol, Pierre, SD

Rotunda Event
January 13, 2021 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

State of the Tribes Address
January 14, 2021 - 1 p.m.

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https://sdtribalrelations.sd.gov/

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