



South Dakota

# DEPARTMENT OF TRIBAL RELATIONS

## LETTER FROM SECRETARY FLUTE

Department of Tribal Relations

Greetings!

I hope this letter finds everyone well and looking forward to Spring. I would like to take this time to share some updates from the South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations.

In December, at the Lakota Nation Invitational our staff set up a booth promoting suicide prevention awareness and shared information with visitors. The Office of Indian Education also set up a booth at the Ramkota to share information about our efforts and to promote and enhance the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings in public schools. Over 300 copies of the books and elder posters were distributed to educators.

The 2022 legislative session has been quite busy for the Department of Tribal Relations. We provided testimony on different bills that help advance the mission of the department and some that provide us an opportunity to think critically about different perspectives.

This year we hosted world renowned Lakota artist Kevin Locke to share his understanding of different cultural teachings of song, dance, art, and communication. We are thankful for his cultural sharing and wonderful performance during the rotunda event and the legislative reception; everyone that had an opportunity to watch his performances were very excited and happy to learn more about our local tribal culture.

We were also honored to host Tashina Red Hawk, a two-time South Dakota High School Rodeo Queen and the first South Dakotan to win the National 4-H Youth in Action Award. We are very grateful for her sharing an inspiring speech with legislators and others gathered in the rotunda. She is a great role model for young people across South Dakota.

We hosted a State-Tribal Economic Development networking event that brought together the Governor’s Office of Economic Development, South Dakota Department of Tourism, Native Homeownership Coalition, Small Business Administration, Native Tourism Alliance, and many others. Our goal to bring key stakeholders to the table and strengthen communication and build partnerships was achieved and we are happy to see ongoing discussions between all partners.

This year the Governor-Chairmen Top Gun shoot was won by the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, with Chairman Hopkins and Francis Crawford teaming up and taking home the trophy. We want to thank all the teams that participated and a special “thank you” to the Department of Public Safety for working with us and planning for use of the facility.

On behalf of the agency, we want to say “thank you” to all the legislators that came to the state-tribal relations events, all the booth sponsors, visitors, and performers.

I want to acknowledge my staff and say “thank you” for making all the calls, fliers, invitations, and arrangements and putting in the work that needed to be completed for the state-tribal relations events. The success of the events is attributed to their hard work.

We encourage our readers to visit our website and explore the different links that will lead to more information regarding our efforts to improve state-tribal relations.

All the best,

David Flute  
Cabinet Secretary

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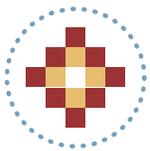
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FROM THE

# OFFICE OF INDIAN EDUCATION



Click here to stay up to date with opportunities in Native education and professional development by joining the Native American K-12 Listserv!



## The Wóokiye Project

### What is the Wóokiye Project?

The Wóokiye Project includes five pilot schools and 28 Wóokiye Teachers. These teachers will receive training and will be participants in required monthly virtual meetings and professional development.

[Click here for additional information](#)



# Save the Date!

SEPTEMBER 8,9,10<sup>TH</sup> 2022

## 2022 INDIAN EDUCATION SUMMIT

RAMKOTA CONVENTION CENTER

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

Contact: South Dakota Office of Indian Education  
Trista Olsen [Trista.Olsen@state.sd.us](mailto:Trista.Olsen@state.sd.us)



The Office of Indian Education, Department of Tribal Relations, invites you to the 2022 Indian Education Summit to be hosted at the Ramkota Convention Center in Rapid City, SD on September 8 and 9, with Youth Day on September 10. For more information, vendor details, or to apply as a presenter, please email [Trista.olsen@state.sd.us](mailto:Trista.olsen@state.sd.us).

### RESOURCES FOR TEACHING OCETI SAKOWIN ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS



[Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings & Standards](#)



[Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings Instructional Resources](#)

To request these print resources or inquire about additional resources, please contact Senior Secretary, Trista Olsen.

**Email:** [trista.olsen@state.sd.us](mailto:trista.olsen@state.sd.us)

**Phone:** 605.773.2917



Be the one to reach out and help save a life.  
Be the one to change someone's mind.

## RESOURCES FOR OUTREACH



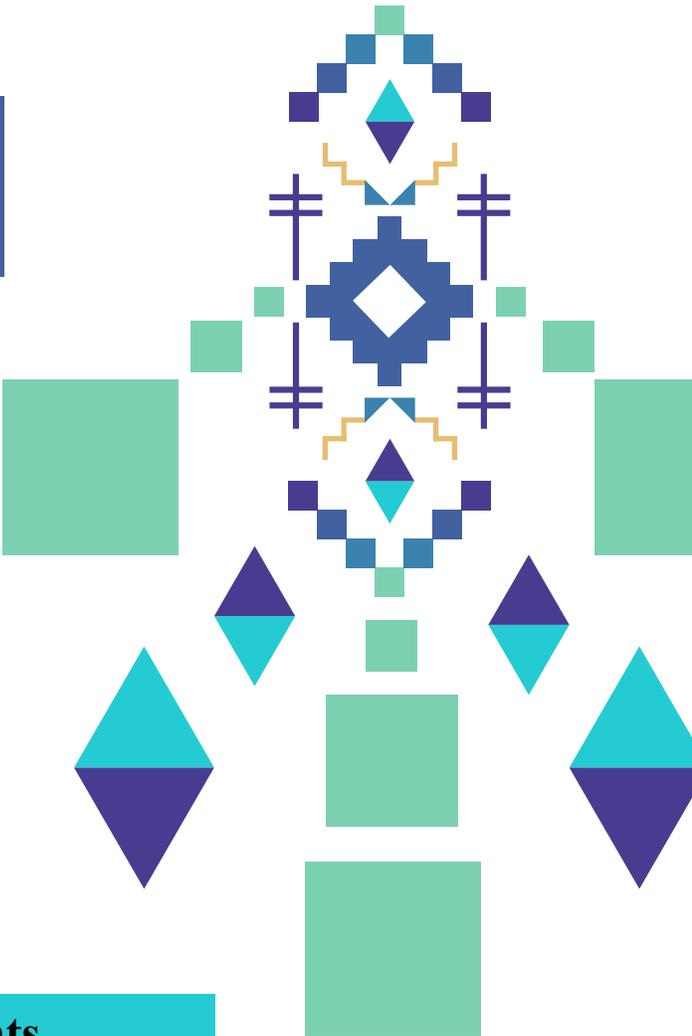
[Community Toolkits](#)



[Native American Suicide Information for South Dakota](#)



[Order Suicide Prevention Print Materials](#)



## Recent Events

Our staff recently set up a booth promoting suicide prevention awareness during the Ateyapi Kicopi Educational Event “Calling Back Our Fathers” hosted by the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board. For more suicide prevention resources from GPTCHB please use the following link.

[Tribal Mental Health Social Media Kit](#)

**Need help? Text the crisis text line: text ‘Hunkpati’ to 741-741**  
**You can also call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:**  
**1-800-273-8255(TALK) or**  
**text ‘Hello’ to 741-741**



## More Information

<https://strongerfamilies.together.sd.gov/>

Foster and adoptive families are greatly needed in South Dakota. When families are unable to provide safe care for children due to significant challenges they are experiencing, foster families are needed. In addition to providing care for children, foster families also provide encouragement and support to the entire family as they are working to make changes so the children can return home. Adoptive families who can support children's identity and life-long connections are also needed if children cannot return home safely. In South Dakota most children adopted from foster care are adopted by their foster parents who have established a relationship with the child and their family connections.

Families supporting families is a shared value in South Dakota. By offering a helping hand to other families in our communities, we can build "Stronger Families Together".



- [Stronger Families Together Social Media Toolkit](#)
- [Myths and Facts about Becoming a Foster Parent](#)





## SERVICES & INFORMATION



SD DOH  
COVID-19  
Updates



IHS  
COVID-19  
Updates &  
Resources



GRTLHB  
COVID-19  
Updates &  
Resources



South Dakota  
Department of  
**Social Services**



COVID-19:  
TALK. SUPPORT. HELP.



METH ADDICTION IS  
EVERYONE'S PROBLEM.



EVERY ONE OF US  
has the power to save a life.



INFORMATION ABOUT  
FOSTER CARE



## CONTACTS



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605.773.2917

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SDResponse.gov is a source for accurate, up-to-date  
information regarding emergency incidents.