

Lakolya Waoniya: *Breathing Life into the Lakota Language*



Lakolya Waoniya is a paid holistic development experience centered on developing Lakota language fluency and strengthening Lakota lifeways. One of the main factors making learning the Lakota language for Lakota people inaccessible is the time, energy, and effort we have to put into working as a means for survival. This program would make learning Lakota your full-time *job*, allowing people to meet their material needs while working toward and achieving fluency in the Lakota language.

About The Program

- Seven participants will earn a salary and benefits for three years
- Sicangu citizens age 18 or older are eligible
- Not a language fellowship, but a full-time job
- Cultural experiences and knowledge integrated into language instruction

The Timeline

- Now:** Share your input about how the program should be run
- Mid-December:** Multi-step application process opens
- January:** Applications reviewed, interviews conducted, finalists selected
- February:** Participants chosen via random lottery.
- March:** Program launches. Participants choose their teacher.

We are currently in conversation with the community to answer your questions and listen to your input on the program, our process, and how to best implement the vision of the Lakolya Waoniya Program. You can share your questions and comments via facebook (www.facebook.com/RosebudProsperity) or participate in our questionnaire via the QR code below.

Share
Your
Thoughts



Apply
(after Dec.
13th)



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Building the Future: How RCI Supports Youth and Cultural Revitalization

In December 2020, RST Child Care hosted a groundbreaking for a new, state-of-the-art child care facility that will integrated Lakota language and knowledge into the design and programming at the site. Gale Spotted Tail and her team at RST Child Care had been dreaming of and working toward the day for years and it was a huge milestone.

Alongside Gale and her staff were elected leaders of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe as well as spiritual leaders, each of whom spoke about the impact that this project will have for generations to come. It was clear from the speakers that this is much more than just a daycare facility; this is a place that will ensure that Lakota teachings, language, and traditions will live on with future generations.

Along side those representatives were members of another team who has played an important role in bringing this project to life: Rosebud Construction, Inc. (RCI). The RCI and RST Child Care teams worked together for months to design the facility, carefully incorporating Lakota principles as well as feedback and insights from a team of cultural advisors.

Earlier this year, the RCI team completed the preparations for the site, which included engineering for the infrastructure and leveling the area. Work on the building's foundation is in progress and the RCI team anticipates that the project will be complete in mid-to-late 2022. The spaces will include child care rooms, classrooms, administrative office spaces and accommodations for children, staff, parents and visitors.

The Child Care facility is currently the largest job that RCI is working on, but it isn't the only project that is supporting Sicangu youth and preservation of the Lakota language. RCI is also working on building renovations for Wakanyeja Tokeyahci (WT), Sicangu CDC's Lakota immersion school. These renovations will allow WT to move into its own school building so that they can continue to grow and serve more students and their families.

With these and other exciting and impactful projects, Rosebud Construction is always looking for additional labor. RCI welcomes applicants with all skills and experience, ranging from beginning laborers to experienced project managers. To learn more about available positions, visit the link below or simply scan the QR code.

Be sure to follow the REDCO Facebook page for more updates on these projects!



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2021 Tatanka Trot Sees Runners Participate From All Across Turtle Island

On November 25th, the Sicangu Oyate Ki Iyanka Running Club and Sicangu Community Development Corporation hosted the first in-person Tatanka Trot 5k walk/run at the Todd County Middle School on a beautiful, chilly morning. Virtual runners participated near and far, from England to Arizona to Washington, to honor Native American Heritage Month and lift the voices of Indigenous Peoples. We were thankful to be able to share space locally in community and run together as well as feel the love from a larger community as those who ran in other parts of Turtle Island acknowledged the land they were were running on and the Indigenous Nations that steward the land. We look forward to next year's run!



Fire Cider: A Way to Naturally Boost Your Immune System

Last week we teamed up with Vi Waln to start another batch of Fire Cider! Fire Cider is a spicy tonic used to prevent and treat colds by boosting your immune system. This new batch will be ready after the new year!

If you or someone you know needs some of this immune-boosting juice before then, reach out to Tracy at REDCO to pick up some for you and your family! We have some available NOW from a previous batch. We include a full list of ingredients with each jar and these jars are FREE for anyone who needs some!

As we begin to walk through these winter months, we wish you all good health!



Employee Spotlight:

Sage Fast Dog

Founder and Director, WAKANYEJA TOKEYAHCI

What is your favorite part of the work you do for WAKANYEJA TOKEYAHCI?

When we (students and staff) all sing together during Hihanni ki Hocokanyan Inajinpi.

What values do you hold that you feel you are able to lean into with your work for WAKANYEJA TOKEYAHCI?

Well that encompasses knowing and understanding and walking in the values passed down to you from your family and The Lakota society. In the WT school design plan, the Lakota society values were planted as the school's core values: *Wowiyuskin*; Happiness, *Wastecake*; Kindness, *Istuste'iyé Miciye*; Self-control, *Wicoiye Waste*; Truthfulness and honesty, *Sutake*; Endurance, *Owotanla*; Fidelity, *Tawacin Waste*; generosity, *Taku Ki Ognayeh'Gi Ounye*; Accountability, *Wakagi*; Deference, *Spukesni*; Industriousness, *Ohitika*; Courage, *Wacintanka*; Perseverance, *Unsih'anpi*; Humility, *Yuonihan*; Honor, and *Wotakuye*; Relationships. Our school's Wotakuye structure is embedded in our school and classroom culture, intentionally designed to support and celebrate the values above. Wotakuye fits within in the holistic model of mental and physical health and social and emotional development that we provide through our health and wellness courses. Kinship Relations is an important component of our social skills structure found in our school culture, health, and wellness classes.



What is something you'd like the oyate to know about the work you do?

Wakanyeja Ki Tokeyahci Wounspe Oti: Children First Learning Center is providing a free public Lakota immersion school for the Sicangu Oyate. The school was created to sustain our Indigenous Identity, academically prepare, provide Holistic wellness, and generate Lakota Fluency for our students.

Who is a person in your life that has been most influential to you and why?

My Mother for sure. She is my first teacher and demonstrates gentleness. She always supported us in our endeavors.

What is something you'd like to share with the young people of the oyate?

If you want to make a change in our society you live in my young relatives, in any endeavors you do, try to find how whatever you're learning can help you sustain your Indigenous Identity. When you understand and gain wisdom of your intelligence around who you are, it is going to make real changes. You know yourself and community better than anyone and you have the capacity to build a community. The community you build will help us bring our relatives back home to who we are as Lakota.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with the community?

Tell the relatives out there that there is a school called *Wakanyeja Ki Tokeyahci*; Children First that lifts Lakota language, Indigenous Identity, academic preparedness, and holistic wellness. We have open enrollment and have 12 available kindergarten spaces for Fall of 2022. We currently have two grade levels, Kindergarten and First grade. We only take kindergarten students. We are expanding each year by adding a grade level until we reach 5th grade. Our Lakota fluency goal is for our students to be intermediate fluent speakers by the time our k-students reach 3rd grade.

Sicangu CDC



REDCO



Tatanka Funds

