

## SFSI Attends Lakota Food Summit

In February, our Sicangu Food Sovereignty Initiative attended the Lakota Food Summit in Rapid City, South Dakota to participate in the Summit's activities. Some of these activities included time spent cooking with other Indigenous chefs with only food Indigenous to North America and learning sessions from speakers like Sean Sherman, CEO of The Sioux Chef and Owamni Native American restaurant in Minneapolis.



Franky Young and Foster Cournoyer Hogan (Lakota Foods Coordinator) meet the CEO of The Sioux Chef and Owamni.



Matte Wilson (SFSI Director) and Franky Young prepare a meal with only foods Indigenous to North America.



Michelle Haukaas (Garden Manger), Foster Cournoyer Hogan, Karen Moore (Market Coordinator), and Franky Young (Community Empowerment Coordinator) at the Lakota Food Summit.

## Join Our Local Foods Directory

The Sicangu Local Foods Directory was created to amplify and support current Food Leaders, Producers and Entrepreneurs on Rosebud. Our goal is to create a directory that lists community members who have knowledge on various skills, trade, and or have a current food or arts business that our community can use as a resource to connect them with local talent, education, and support the overall local economy on Rosebud. You can add your business to the directory by using the QR code below or going to [www.sicangucdc.org/local-foods-directory](http://www.sicangucdc.org/local-foods-directory). (deadline March 14th)

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## Our Food Subscription Program Is Growing

With the first day of spring less than a month away, our Sicangu Food Sovereignty Initiative (SFSI) announced that they will be expanding their tribally-supported agriculture (TSA) food subscription program. This year seasonal options will be available for the spring, summer, and fall, and lower-income families will be able to participate at a lower cost.

“We are super excited to be able to expand the TSA program this year,” said Karen Moore, who is the Market Coordinator for SFSI. “The TSA is really a win-win, because it provides fresh, healthy food to people while also supporting local and Indigenous-owned businesses.”



Moore, an enrolled citizen of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, says that last year’s smaller pilot program was well-received and that the expansion will allow more people to participate over a longer period. The first boxes for the spring subscription will be ready on May 23rd and the fall program is slated to last into October, closing with a farm-to-table meal for those who participated. “We want to show our appreciation to the subscribers and also have a chance to find out what they liked and didn’t like so we can improve the program for next year,” Moore said.

With the boxes being spread throughout the year, it also means that participants will get to try more foods that are in-season. “Spring will have more leafy greens and fresh herbs. Summer will have tomatoes, peppers, summer squash. And fall will be cooler weather crops like root veggies, winter squash, and dried herbs,” said Moore. They added that the market value for the products received is over \$30 per week.

Moore acknowledged that – because Rosebud is a food desert where reliable and affordable access to fresh produce is limited – some of the products may be new or unfamiliar to subscribers. “Another change we are making this year is that we want to include more information and recipes in the box, so that people know how to store and prepare the foods.”

Moore emphasized that the program is meant to be financially accessible to everyone in the community. “This year we are using a ‘sliding scale’ price so that the cost varies based on a family’s income level. Lower income folks can get up to 50% off. People can also use EBT to cover the cost of the subscription, and we allow them to pay on a month-to-month basis.”

Additionally, they will be offering Wacantognake (generosity) shares which will be completely complimentary. Moore said that the Food Sovereignty team hopes to work with community presidents in the communities where they host their mobile market to identify families who would benefit most from the program.

While subscriptions for each season are limited, SFSI will also have plenty of fresh produce available when they host their weekly farmers’ markets in Mission and mobile markets in outlying communities.

Registration for the spring and fall season shares opened in late February in conjunction with the national CSA Week. Participants are able to sign up online at [www.sicangucdc.org/food-sovereignty](http://www.sicangucdc.org/food-sovereignty) or by calling the REDCO office at (605)856-8400.



## Tatanka Funds Meets Soaring Demand for Homeownership Classes

Tatanka Funds, an entity within our ecosystem alongside REDCO and the Sicangu CDC, has partnered with Mazaska Owecaso Otipi Financial to offer online classes in homeownership readiness. The first round of courses took place in February and were the first in a series that will be offered through an ongoing collaboration.

Despite being a relatively new partnership, the classes received an enthusiastic response from the community. “I was in awe when I saw that over 60 people had registered for the class,” said Britney Hiseley, the Executive Director of Tatanka Funds. “It is great to see so many people interested in homeownership and wanting to learn about different types of loans and options so they can purchase their future home.” Class materials are designed specifically for Native communities, which is very important to us as we serve our Sicangu community.

Rosebud resident Nicholas Emery, who registered for the class, cited family as a reason for his interest. “For a long time, I’ve wanted to own my own home. I have a good-sized family and I want to have something I can give to my children,” he said. “I looked at the workbook (for the class) and I saw a lot of good things in there about budgeting and planning.”

Given the demand for the class, Emery is not alone. However, despite the high level of interest, homeownership rates remain low in Native communities. According to the Federal Reserve, only about 56% of people in Indian Country own their own home, compared to US national rate of 71% for people living in rural areas. There are many reasons for this gap, but part of the problem is a shortage of affordable housing. The Rosebud Economic Development Corporation (REDCO) completed a housing needs assessment which estimated that 30% of the Rosebud population is unhoused or living in an overcrowded or inadequate home. The study estimates an additional 500 homes need to be built to fully address this issue.

This presents a problem, Hiseley says, because most developers are intimidated by the idea of investing on tribal land due to their unfamiliarity with the communities and jurisdiction. In order to alleviate the need for outside help, Tatanka Funds is working closely with REDCO to identify and work with potential homeowners to prepare them for the Keya Wakpala Woicageyapi housing development that REDCO is leading. The first stage of development at the site will include 10 single-family homes. “This is a really exciting opportunity for tribal citizens to move into brand new housing, and we want to make sure people are prepared for everything that comes along with homeownership.”

Hiseley and Travis Leading Cloud, the Training Coordinator for Tatanka Funds, see these homeownership classes as being just one small piece of what Tatanka Funds offers over the long term. “As a Community Development Financial Institute (CDFI), we are here to support the community on rebuilding credit through financial classes, financial coaching, and best practices. We offer one-on-one assistance in creating a spending plan, business start-up information, and creating a business plan,” said Hiseley.

The next round of classes will be held in the evenings of March 14th-17th. An updated class schedule and registration information can be found at [www.tatankafunds.org](http://www.tatankafunds.org). Updates will also be posted to the Tatanka Funds Facebook page.



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## Spotlight: Katrina Fuller

Katrina Fuller, our Sicangu CDC Health Initiative Director, graduated from Mount Holyoke College with her B.A. in Behavioral Neuroscience and Anthropology. She is currently pursuing her MBA online through Creighton University and will complete her degree by next year.

In 2017, Katrina returned home where she began her career with REDCO as an Executive Assistant. In her new role, Katrina is dedicated to creating programs that support the health and wellness of the Oyate by helping families build their first home garden, boosting their ability to advocate for their health needs, showing families how to eat nutritious foods, helping kids strengthen their Lakota identity, and so much more.

In the long term, Katrina wants to create a Lakota Family Planning & Birthing Center. She believes it is important that our Lakota babies are safely born on our tribal lands. Katrina has a daughter named Ramona (2yrs) and a son named Inyan (1yr) and it is her babies that give her the strength to continue learning and bettering herself so she can positively impact the community that she proudly serves.

This year, Katrina and her family will be growing their family garden again and she will be exploring newfound interests such as beading, making a drum, trying new ingredients, and even learning to restore furniture. Katrina is on a mission to educate others to create the systemic change in our health and wellness systems by putting health back into the hands of our Tiwahe.



## Join Our Team!



Come join the over 60 team members employed throughout our ecosystem made up of Sicangu CDC, Tatanka Funds, and REDCO. We have various positions open that you can apply for right now. To learn more and apply, go to [www.sicangucorp.com/careers](http://www.sicangucorp.com/careers) or scan the QR code below.

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