

Sicangu CDC Hosts Wotakuye Day Camp

Last month, we hosted the Wotakuye Day Camp for Sicangu youth to strengthen their connection to Lakota identity and culture. Hosted by the Health Initiative, led by Katrina Fuller, activities included setting up a tipi, exploring wild medicines, making Bapa, playing lacrosse, and learning traditional crafts.



Youth participants learned that building a strong identity within yourself and connection to the community you live are the foundation of being a good relative.



It was such a fun couple of days and we look forward to future camps like this. Thank you to the youth for participating and to all of the adults who made this possible and shared their skills and knowledge with the young ones!

Wopila to the Turner Foundation and National Recreation Foundation for providing financial support to host the camps. These resources helped make the time shared fruitful and memorable.



Keya Wakpala Releases Home Designs and Site Plan

Keya Wakpala Woicageyapi -- or Turtle Creek Regenerative Development -- is a 600-acre community-scale development project that reimagines the way we live, work and play. Roughly six years of community surveys, meetings, feasibility studies, and planning have brought the project to the exciting position it is in today, as REDCO is preparing to break ground on the first phasing of construction, which will include ten homes.

In addition to housing, plans for the first phase include a convenience store, car wash, restaurant, and the Sicangu Innovation Center, which will serve as a hub for business development.

We have shared more information on our Facebook page and encourage anyone interested in learning more to check out www.sicangucorp.com/keya-wakpala, which is also where those interested in homeownership can share their contact information.

First 10-Home Neighborhood designed



4 Unique House Design and Sizes to Choose From done



New Program Will Pay Citizens to Learn Lakota

REDCO is launching Lakolya Waoniya, a program that will pay members of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate a full-time salary over three years to immerse themselves in the language and become fluent. Surveys have showed that nearly everyone wants to learn Lakota, but finding time within a busy work schedule is a major barrier. This program eliminates that burden for learners, allowing them to dedicate themselves to mastering the language, just as they would commit them to any other full-time job.

“As Lakota, our true wealth is our cultural perpetuity, and our culture cannot exist without our language,” said Wizipan Little Elk, the CEO of REDCO. *“For generations, our ancestors were forbidden – even beaten – for being their true, authentic selves. This program represents a step toward reclaiming our identity.”*

REDCO is currently hiring a program coordinator to finalize the program development and oversee the execution of the project. Candidates for this position must be highly organized and dedicated to the project but need not be fluent Lakota speakers. They will have the opportunity to participate in the program with the intent of becoming fluent.

To learn more about this program and for more information about why we decided to launch it, visit www.sicangucorp.com/lakolya

Wakanyeja Ki Tokeyahci Begins Second Year of Immersive Education

Wakanyeja Ki Tokeyahci, in its second year, offers education for K-1st grades and will support the holistic development of our students in four interrelated components: *academic preparedness, holistic wellness and leadership, Lakota language and culture, and Indigenous identity.*

We center these four parts together around woŋakuye, the Lakōŋa concept of kinship and interrelatedness. By bringing these parts together, we provide our students a transformative educational experience. They stand for everything Lakōŋa. They will be academically prepared to succeed in school, career and life. They will be healthy and know how to lead. They will be fluent in the ways and language of the Lakōŋa people. They will be secure in their identity. They will be the future builders of a prosperous Lakōŋa nation. Let’s wish our Wakanyeja a successful school year!

For those interested, open enrollment over the summer has officially closed for the school year but will open back up next summer for the next school year. There are plans to add another grade next year as well. We are currently hiring for a Lakota language expert to help students and teachers with the nuance of the language. To find out more about the school and apply for this position, head over to www.sicangucdc.org/wakanyeja-tokeyahci

Event Calendar

October 13th, 2021

Sicangu Harvest Market & Fall Bash (food, drinks, costume contest)

4:30pm-6:30pm, 211 N Grant St, Mission, SD 57555

October 19th, 2021

Todd County @ Saint Francis, Volleyball

6:30pm, SFIS

October 20, 2021

Building Power through Financial Literacy

9am- 5pm, In-Person or Virtual (register at tatankafunds.org/calendar)

Employee Spotlight:

Michelle Traversie

General Manager, Rosebud Office Solutions

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

Providing services and products to the businesses on and off the reservation.

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

I was recently hired on as the General Manager for Rosebud Office Solutions so I am learning this new role and am actively looking for ways to provide better services to our customers. Our goal is to expand and provide services to the surrounding areas. I want our customers to know that we do care about them and we try our best every day to make sure they are taken care of in a timely manner.



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

My dad, Duane Hollow Horn Bear, he has always given me the best advice, encouragement, and will always be my hero. My dad told me to always work hard, never rely on anyone to take care of me and my kids, which has motivated me to be a hard worker. He told me to never do a job halfway to always finish what I start, and to always be honest. I try my best to apply these teachings to my every day life.

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

Our culture and traditions are waiting for you. Be strong, be brave, be the one to break the cycle of negativity, judgment and drugs. Help lead our nation to healing and recovery.