

## **SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY**

South Dakota State University is located in Brookings, South Dakota, approximately 400 miles due south of Winnipeg, MB. It is the largest university in South Dakota with an enrollment of over 11,000 students, about 180 of which are American Indian. The state has nine American Indian Reservations of the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota Nations.



### **American Indian Initiatives/Programs at SDSU**

#### **FIS-SDSU Success Academy**

Success Academy is a college preparatory program developed by SDSU for students at Flandreau Indian School, the oldest American Indian boarding school in the United States. FIS has approximately 350 students, from 60 tribes, of 28 states. All of the freshman and sophomore students from FIS visit the SDSU campus on multiple occasions for workshops, presentations, and activities familiarizing them with the university, its programs, and opportunities available to them through a college education. Junior and senior students who are college-oriented also visit campus a number of times for sessions on college life and the process of matriculation. Seniors are offered two 3-credit college courses to take during their last year at FIS. Students later enrolling at SDSU are supported through specific advising and support programming.

#### **2+2+2**

2+2+2 is a collaborative program between reservation high schools, tribal colleges, and South Dakota State University to help more American Indian students earn baccalaureate degrees in disciplines relating to agriculture, natural resources, biological sciences, family and consumer sciences. Opportunities include a summer institute, research experiences and scholarships.

#### **Prairie PhD**

The 'prairie phd' is a distance delivered, cohort graduate program leading to MS and PhD degrees in Biological Sciences from South Dakota State University. The program is designed for tribal college faculty and tribal professionals working in areas relating to agriculture, natural resources, biological sciences, family and consumer sciences. The curriculum is holistic in nature and students are encouraged to select a research project of significance to tribal people and reservation issues.

**Tribal College Faculty/Staff Exchange**

This new program provides for the exchange of instructors or staff for short periods of time. Ideally, two individuals with comparable responsibilities trade places for periods up to one week in length. Arrangements for this have been made with Oglala Lakota College (Pine Ridge Reservation) and with Sinte Gleska University (Rosebud Reservation), and will be expanded to include other tribal schools. The program provides SDSU students with direct instruction from Native academicians, and provides SDSU faculty and staff with direct experiences with Native culture and students.

**International Partnership for Service-Learning and Leadership: Lakota Nation Program**

SDSU is affiliated with The International Partnership for Service-Learning and Leadership which places students at service-learning sites in 14 countries. The only IPSL placement sites in the United States are on Indian Reservations in South Dakota. Students receive intensive orientation/education, then live on a reservation for ten weeks with a Native family while providing service at a nearby facility. Resulting personal relationships enhance recruiting efforts for Native students to attend a university.

**Wokunze Project for Nursing Education**

This program provides scholarships for qualified American Indian individuals to pursue full-time study in a program leading toward a baccalaureate degree in nursing at SDSU. The Wokunze Project is funded by the Indian Health Service under Section 112 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, as amended.

**Ongoing SDSU Programs**

- Full-time Native American Student Advisor.
- Native American Student Club with space in Student Union and in Intramural Building.
- Annual SDSU Powwow (20+ drum groups)
- Annual fall conference: “Consider the Century: American Indian Perspectives on the Past 100 Years.” Native presenters provide insights and information.
- Annual Spring conference: “SDSU Conference on American Indian Histories and Cultures.” Native presenters provide insights and information.
- Annual Summer Workshop: “Oak Lake Native American Writer’s Retreat.” Lakota, Dakota, Nakota cultural emphasis.

