



South Dakota

DEPARTMENT OF TRIBAL RELATIONS

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October 6, 2020

State-Tribal Relations Committee Members:

The Office of Indian Education, (OIE), operates in the capacity set forth in the state code to support initiatives that assist with students and instructional staff gaining a better understanding of the culture and history of the S.D. tribes. Respectfully, I would like to share and highlight some successful results of the Office of Indian Education, (OIE), while operating under the Department of Tribal Relations, (DTR):

- Discussion, support and guidance given to the director to apply for a Bush Foundation grant to assist with the implementation of the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings, (OSEU).
- Improved and sustained compliance with SDCL 1-54-11, 12, and By-Laws of the Indian Education Advisory Council, (IEAC).
 - Our records do not show the required summer meeting for 2017, thus out of compliance. (Article V. Section 2. The IEAC will meet at least four times during the academic school year and once during the summer).
 - While under DTR the OIE hosted meetings according to the By-Laws and has met the requirements.
- OIE mission is in line with the Tribal Relations mission: Collaborate and facilitate communications between state and tribal governments and work towards creating meaningful partnerships. OIE mission also includes and focuses on native students.
 - Tribal Relations is the outreach and liaison agency between the state and tribes.
 - OIE in its mission is also the outreach and liaison between the state and tribes.
 - We have fulfilled and will continue to fulfill the outreach and duties of both offices.

Finally, the South Dakota Department of Education, (DOE), is a regulatory and federal compliance agency and is responsible for following the rules and standards set forth for all school systems. The Office of Indian Education remains in communication and collaboration with DOE on all matters that are important to the education of our native students throughout the state. It is unnecessary to continually debate this issue when we have native students struggling during this pandemic and we all need to get back to focusing on the vision and mission of the Office of Indian Education.

Respectfully,

David Flute-Secretary