

South Dakota State University

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Wokini Initiative: The New Beginnings Newsletter

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6-2021

### The New Beginnings Newsletter, June 2021

Wokini Initiative

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# THE NEW BEGINNINGS NEWSLETTER



SOUTH DAKOTA  
STATE UNIVERSITY

**WOKINI  
INITIATIVE**  
A NEW BEGINNING  
South Dakota State University®



**WOKINI  
INITIATIVE**  
A NEW BEGINNING  
South Dakota State University®



## Seven Wokini Challenge Grants Awarded for FY 2022

Seven Wokini Challenge Grants have been awarded for fiscal year 2022. The Challenge Grants support innovative projects and/or research that align with the Wokini Five-Year Plan goals and objectives.

Funded projects include the following:

- Archiving oral histories by dialoguing with American Indian college graduations about hope and persistence through educational attainment (Project Director Karla Hunter)

- Creating authentic connections among nurse educators and Native American nursing students through a shared cultural education experience (Project Director Valeria Big Eagle)
- Promoting global engagement at home and abroad by bringing cultures together (Project Director Jon Stauff)
- Preserving written and spoken Lakota language through daily weather on the internet (Project Director Ruben Behnke)
- Creating library space honoring Oceti Sakowin culture (Project Director Michael Gutierrez)
- Promoting American Indian student retention and wellbeing through peer counseling and mentoring (Project Director Polly Davis)
- Modeling groundwater and risk assessment for Arikaree Aquifer in Pine Ridge Reservation, SD (Project Director Lan Xu)

Grant applications are accepted each March, and all SDSU employees are eligible to apply for these competitive grants of up to \$10,000.

Full Article

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## Open Positions

### Director of Wokini and Tribal Relations

South Dakota State University (SDSU) is searching for a dynamic, innovative, and collaborative leader to fill the role of Director of Wokini and Tribal Relations. The Wokini Initiative, translated to “new beginnings” in Lakota, is SDSU’s collaborative and holistic framework to support the nine tribal nations in South Dakota emphasizing American Indian student success and tribal nation building. The next Director will embrace the core values of SDSU as a people-centered leader, valuing creativity, diversity, integrity, and excellence. This individual will have strong knowledge of American Indian and indigenous culture with emphasis on the nine tribal nations in South Dakota. Through strong partnership with the leadership of the American Indian Student Center and American Indian Studies Program, the Director will build on the solid foundation of the Wokini Initiative to take SDSU’s efforts to a new level, working collaboratively across the University to serve American Indian people at the University, in our state, and throughout the region and nation.

For more information on this position and to apply, click [here](#).

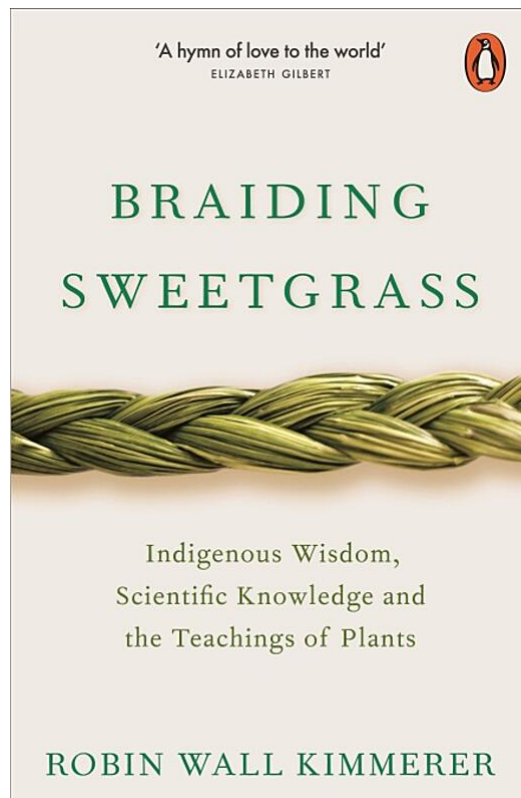
## Program Coordinator

South Dakota State University (SDSU) is currently seeking a highly motivated professional to lead a grant-funded innovative project. South Dakota State University is the state's largest, most comprehensive university with more than 200 programs and an enrollment of approximately 12,000 students. The successful candidate will coordinate the grant team in creation of an online interactive curriculum for staff and faculty professional development that focuses on Lakota/Dakota/Nakota cultural competency and implementation of culturally responsive practices at SDSU. The Program Coordinator will travel and work effectively with cultural consultants and manage project tasks and objectives in accordance with the project's fast-paced timeline. This is a 12-month, full-time, benefit-eligible, grant-funded position. This position is supervised by the Director of Wokini and Tribal Relations.

For more information on this position and to apply, click [here](#).

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## Book of the Month



"As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature

with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer brings these two ways of knowledge together. Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, a mother, and a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings - asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass - offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices." - Penguin Books

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## Lakota Word of the Month

ikítčiyuthA | to challenge

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## Upcoming Events @ AISC

American Indian Student Center Ribbon Cutting: October 8 - 9, AISC



Wokini Initiative, South Dakota State University, Morrill Hall 119, Brookings, SD 57007, 605-688-4030

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