



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Heidi Cuny, Cuny Communications, 415.279.0185, heidi@cunycommunications.com

Under New Leadership Indian Business Alliance Prepares for Year of Action

Rapid City, South Dakota – September 26, 2016 – The South Dakota Indian Business Alliance (SDIBA), a group of community partners that work collaboratively to strengthen Native entrepreneurship development, has announced a new Executive Team that will be responsible for managing the organization’s affairs over the next year. The leadership team was elected through an open statewide nominations process and is comprised of nine individuals that have over 150 years of collective experience in Native American issues.

“We will assertively utilize the talents of SDIBA’s Executive Team to push through challenges that Native American entrepreneurs in South Dakota face,” says Patrick Murphy (Rosebud Sioux), Chairperson for the group. He adds, “We are lucky to have some of the founding members still active on the team. They represent the history and the memory of the organization, and we will surely build from their experiences.”

Murphy, Project Manager at Project Solutions, Inc. of Rapid City, says that a shared commitment to promoting economic opportunity in Native communities created “a dynamic that brought about many great ideas during the team’s first face-to-face planning session.” Those great ideas include increasing community outreach, strengthening partnerships with state government agencies, informing legislation that supports increased access to capital, and educating individuals, families, and organizations on the challenges and opportunities that exist for Native entrepreneurs.

“We are planning a busy year, and every one of our Executive Team members brings a unique perspective and skillset to the table. We are lucky to have this group of highly seasoned professionals,” states Murphy.

Christine Sorenson of USDA Rural Development in Pierre has been named Co-Chair of SDIBA’s Executive Team; Tally Colombe (Crow Creek Sioux) of Hunkpati Investments in Fort Thompson is the new Secretary; and Eileen “Taffy” Lafferty (Rosebud Sioux) of Rosebud Economic Development Corporation in Mission is Treasurer. The following individuals have also been elected as members: Tanya Fiddler (Cheyenne River Sioux) of the Native CDFI Network in Rapid City, Sandy Gerber of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis in Minneapolis, Harold “Sonny” Hill (Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate) of the Yankton Sioux Tribe’s Economic Development Office in Wagner, Rachel Lindvall of the South Dakota State University’s Rosebud Reservation Extension Office in Mission, and Lakota Mowrer (Cheyenne River Sioux) of Four Bands Community Fund in Eagle Butte.

###

South Dakota Indian Business Alliance



About the South Dakota Indian Business Alliance

The South Dakota Indian Business Alliance (SDIBA) was formed in 2007 to cultivate effective and efficient business environments in South Dakota's Indian Country. By utilizing a comprehensive business development model that addresses four key sectors – governance, infrastructure, finance, and resources – SDIBA is able to achieve its mission of leveraging resources through diverse partnerships to strengthen Native entrepreneurship development and build wealth in Native communities. SDIBA holds quarterly meetings, facilitates semi-annual policy roundtables, and hosts bi-annual conferences to disseminate information, inform policy, create networking opportunities, and provide platforms for collaboration that advance sustainable Indian business development. More information can be found on SDIBA's website at www.sdibaonline.org.