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Over 500 Native American Individuals to Benefit from Business Development Initiative

Eagle Butte, South Dakota – April 24, 2014 – The South Dakota Indian Business Alliance (SDIBA) has launched a two-year initiative designed to foster local small and micro-business development, deliver training and development services to boost successful employment experiences, and provide a platform for networking and advocacy that supports strong public policies vital to thriving local economies in South Dakota’s reservation communities. The initiative, titled “Building a Foundation for South Dakota’s Native American Vision” and funded largely in part by a \$150,000 grant from the Northwest Area Foundation, will provide training and resources to each of the state’s nine reservations and is estimated to impact over 500 Native American individuals.

“We are grateful to the Northwest Area Foundation for their continued support of the South Dakota Indian Business Alliance. This funding will catapult the Alliance into its next stage of growth while we continue to implement our proven, as well as new, strategies to chip away at obstacles surrounding the development of private sector Indian businesses,” says Tanya Fiddler, Chairperson of SDIBA.

A large part of the initiative focuses on the mobilization of three working committees that will work to develop a skilled Native American workforce through the delivery of training courses, provide information for utilizing the Community Reinvestment Act as a tool for expanding access to capital and credit, and create business-friendly environments by aiding in the adoption of Uniform Commercial Codes. Over the course of the initiative, SDIBA will continue to connect Native American entrepreneurs to resources and capital through its Native Entrepreneur Investment Fund.

In addition, SDIBA will engage in Indian business development on a broader scale through collaboration with similar alliances in Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. “We are excited to build on our dynamic relationships with other Indian Business Alliances. The information exchange that takes place as a result of these interactions is extraordinary and leads to truly innovative solutions,” says Fiddler. “By pooling resources and knowledge, each group can dramatically increase the impact they have in their respective communities.”

By the end of the two-year initiative, SDIBA hopes to have set in place a foundation upon which further economic development progress can be made. “We know that full attainment of our vision for South Dakota’s reservation economies will be a long process, but this effort is designed to achieve critical steps that will foster future momentum,” says Fiddler.

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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. The mission of SDIBA is to enhance Indian business development by leveraging partnerships and resources of diverse institutions and organizations. In addition, SDIBA collaborates with partner organizations to maximize the benefits of joint efforts by the state and the tribes to increase Indian entrepreneurship in South Dakota. SDIBA uses a comprehensive business development model that addresses Governance, Infrastructure, Finance, and Resources in order to develop sustainable businesses in Indian Country. More information can be found on SDIBA's website at www.sdibaonline.org.