

121211 NATIVE BIZ WRAP

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Lead: The South Dakota Indian Business Alliance has officially released “Native Entrepreneurship on South Dakota’s Nine Reservations”. The research report examines small business development on the reservations, as well as major barriers to private small business development in reservation communities.

SDPB’s Jim Kent reports:

The goal of the South Dakota Indian Business Alliance is to cultivate effective and efficient business environments throughout South Dakota's Indian Country.

Kim Pate co-authored the Alliance’s report on South Dakota’s Native Entrepreneurship. Pate says one of the problems to increasing private Native businesses is a lack of knowledge about available assistance programs with agencies such as the Small Business Administration, the USDA and the Department of Labor.

But Pate adds there are also barriers.

KP: “Just the difficulty in getting collateral, because of the trust status of tribal land. That’s a big barrier. Second is really the lack of affordable financial products and services. In most of these reservations....there are no banks.” 15

Pate says there is a light at the end of the Native Entrepreneurship tunnel – it’s being held by entities like the South Dakota Indian Business Alliance.

For South Dakota Public Broadcasting, I’m Jim Kent

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