

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, Sept. 9, 2016

CONTACT: Mary Stadick Smith, South Dakota Department of Education, (605) 773-7228, mary.stadicksmith@state.sd.us or
Ruth Raveling, South Dakota Department of Education, (605) 773-2593, ruth.raveling@state.sd.us

Annual Indian Education Summit to be held in Pierre

PIERRE, S.D. – The 2016 South Dakota Indian Education Summit will be held Sept. 25-27, at the Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center in Pierre.

This 13th annual summit will include a variety of keynote speakers, specialized sessions and cultural activities. The summit will focus on four main topics: attendance, culture/language, recruiting/retaining qualified teachers and innovation. Several of this year's sessions will be two hours long, with the first hour intended to be informational and the second hour designated for attendees to work together in small groups to develop action plans based on the information presented. Other sessions will be one hour long.

Keynote speakers include Dr. Darryl Tonemah, Dr. Kevin Lein and Steve Saffron. Tonemah is a full-blood Kiowa/Comanche Tuscarora who focuses on addressing disparities among Native peoples. He is currently examining the effects of trauma on individuals and communities. He has been the behavioral scientist on two National Institutes of Health studies. A professional musician as well, Tonemah will perform at the summit Monday evening.

Lein has 35 years of professional experience as an educator in South Dakota. He is the principal of Harrisburg High School, which has become a leader in customized learning, with over half of the high school's students participating in a program of 'voice, choice and independence.'

Saffron has degrees in sociology and counseling and worked as director of Indian Services at Scottsdale Community College for 25 years. He offers a highly interactive, experiential learning program filled with strategies and tools.

To learn more and register, visit <http://tie.events/ies/>.