

## **LAKOTA FUNDS CO-SPONSORS THE FOURTH ANNUAL LAKOTA NATION INVITATION BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION**

Lakota Funds, Oglala Sioux Tribe Credit & Finance Office, and the Office of Indian Energy & Economic Development collaborated to sponsor the Fourth Annual Business Plan Competition. The Business Plan Competition was again held in conjunction with the Annual Lakota Nation Invitational which was held on December 14, 15, and 16, 2011 in Rapid City.

Lakota Funds Success Coaches, Kadem Fisher, Tonia Young, Whitney O'Rourke and Doug Patton started assisting students in November to help them develop their ideas into full-fledged business plans. The participating students and staff at Crazy Horse, Red Cloud, White River, Todd County, and St Francis were oriented with basic business plan creation, and then followed with individual technical assistance. High school participants aspiring to be successful entrepreneurs submitted a business plan and presented a 15 minute power point presentation that was reviewed by a panel of judges, followed by a session of questions and answers. This year's judges were: David Frankel (Business Consultant and Attorney for the Oglala Sioux Tribe), Greg Hansen (Project Solutions, Inc, Management Consultant), Heidi Cuny (Cuny Communications), Tracey Zephier (partner Fredericks, Pebbles & Morgan LLP-Attorney at Law).

First place winners in the Freshman/Sophomore Division were Michael Dumont and Zachary Broken Leg of Crazy Horse High School with their business plan idea: Bigg Mike's Studio "Music for the People". Mr. Dumont and Mr. Broken Leg emphasized that "music can be therapeutic. It lets people come in and release stress and anger out in a song. It also makes people feel good about themselves because they had their name out there in the world".

Courtney Two Lance's OST Office of Credit and Finance and the Office of Indian Energy & Economic Development sponsored \$2250 total in scholarships to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners in the Junior/Senior Division. Lakota Funds provided winners in the Freshman/Sophomore Division with Apple iPad 2, Dell Laptop and Dell Mini Notebook. Winners were announced during the Lakota Nation Invitational Semi-Final game.

Doug Patton, Lakota Funds Youth Specialist and Success Coach, is very happy with how this year's Business Plan Competition turned out. "Last year we were thrilled to have eight participants, which was an increase over the previous year. This year we had 23 students participate so we're ecstatic. It's gone from a half day event to almost three full days now and outstanding presentations." Tonia Young, Lakota Funds Success Coach, who had the privilege of assisting students from Crazy Horse School, including the Freshman/Sophomore winning team, Michael Dumont and Zachary Broken Leg, says "for many of these students, the sense of accomplishment they feel after completing the business plan, then preparing and presenting their power point to the judges, is a victory in itself. It builds a sense of self-esteem that will benefit them the rest of their lives."

**Junior-Senior Division:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place (\$1,000): Britton Astleford-White River High School: Britton's Run & Repair Service
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (\$750): Kyle Shawn Stead-Todd County High School: Rez World
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (\$500): Peter Delgado-Lower Brule High School-Delgado Funeral Studio

**Freshman-Sophomore Division:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place (Apple Ipad 2): Michael Dumont & Zachary Broken Leg-Crazy Horse High School: Bigg Mike's Studio
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (Dell Inspiron Laptop): Summer Dupri-Dupree High School: Impresiiions, Video & Photography
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (Dell Inspiron Mini Notebook): Kolby Hill & Jamalia Franzen-Dupree High School: Big Hair, Beautiful Nails

For more information on Youth Programs available with Lakota Funds, contact Douglas Patton Jr., at [dpatton@lakotafunds.org](mailto:dpatton@lakotafunds.org) or (605) 455-2500 our office is located in Kyle, South Dakota. Lakota Funds encourages youth to utilize the services available.

Lakota Funds serves tribal members with a business located on (or to be located on) the Pine Ridge reservation. Loan types include: Micro-loans (under \$5000); Business Loans up to \$200,000, a Business Line of Credit, and the Credit Builder Loans up to \$2,500. Lakota Funds also provides one-on-one technical assistance as well as business classes including Financial Literacy, "Build your own Business" (Business Planning course) and "Make your move" (Homebuyer Education). If you have questions or would like to register for a class, call (605) 455-2500 or email [tbrunsch@lakotafunds.org](mailto:tbrunsch@lakotafunds.org)

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