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Crazy Horse Memorial Will Host 7th Gen Summit on Apr. 4-5 & 7th Gen College Fair on Apr. 6

CRAZY HORSE, SD (Feb. 4, 2020) — Crazy Horse Memorial's Indian University of North America announced today that it will host the 7th Gen Summit on Saturday and Sunday, Apr. 4-5 and the 7th Gen College Fair on Monday, Apr. 6. While the invitational summit is intended to bring together representatives and administrators from universities, technical colleges and tribal colleges, the college fair will be open free to the public.

According to John Little, director of The Indian University of North America, the goal of the 7th Gen Summit on Saturday and Sunday is to collaborate on best practices for the recruitment and retention of Native American students.

"We're very much looking forward to introducing native recruiters to our region, which too many people consider to be 'flyover country,'" Little said. "We're pleased to see that there is increasing interest in the Great Plains tribes. We've got great students here, and at the national level, they're often ignored."

He also observed that there is a common misconception among universities and colleges that if they do not have a dedicated native center on campus, they cannot actively recruit native students. Little and his team seek to address that misconception, providing the tools the institutions need for effective recruitment and retention.

"A little goes a long way," he explained. "Our intention is to provide leadership in Indian education and meaningful tools that will have a real impact. To provide the 'how.'"

The day after the summit, the Memorial will open its doors to the public and welcome native youth to the 7th Gen College Fair, which Little said he anticipates will become a significant event for native youth in South Dakota and perhaps the entire region. More than 50 institutions — from Ivy League and regional universities to technical and tribal colleges — will be on site, along with representatives from some of the biggest names providing native scholarships.

Throughout the day, 8th to 12th graders will have the opportunity to learn more about the application process, ACT and SAT test preparation, housing, financial aid, scholarships, and much more, including transfer guidance for GED students. Little said he anticipates more than 250 native students to attend.

"We want native youth to start thinking about their post-secondary education a lot earlier," he said. "Through the 7th Gen College Fair, we're encouraging them to be proactive, to learn what all the steps are, and to get resources lined up. Too many students aren't even aware of what opportunities are available to them.

"We want to help change that," he continued. "We're eager to introduce recruiters, administrators, and scholarship representatives to our young people, who will be coming from the Rapid City area, our South Dakota reservations, and even the Denver metro area."

While attendees participate in educational presentations and take advantage of networking opportunities with the variety of representatives on site, they also will enjoy raffles for prizes throughout the day. More information regarding specific participants and the schedule of events for this new annual event will be available in the coming weeks.

For more information about the 7th Gen Summit and 7th Gen College Fair, send e-mail to john.little@crazyhorse.org or IndianUniversity@crazyhorse.org. For updates, follow @IndianUniversityofNorthAmerica on Facebook and @IndianUniversityCrazyHorse on Instagram.

To learn more about Crazy Horse Memorial, to plan a visit, and for information about making a contribution, call (605) 673-4681 or visit crazyhorsememorial.org. To stay up to date on the latest news and events, follow the Crazy Horse Memorial on Facebook (/crazyhorsememorial), Twitter (@crazyhorsemem) and Instagram (@crazyhorsememorial).