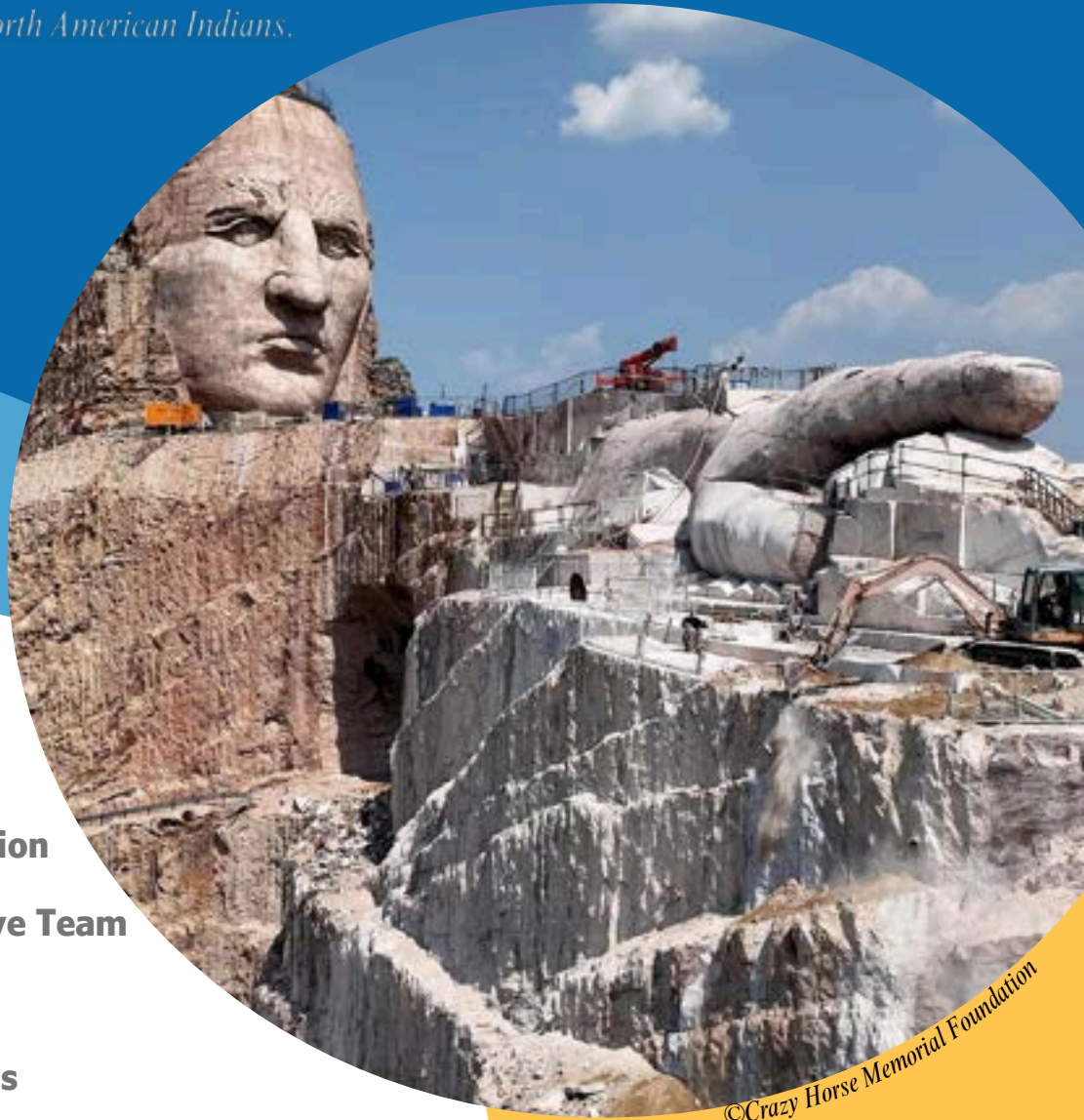


CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL®

The Mission of Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation is to protect and preserve the cultures, traditions, and living heritage of the North American Indians.



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Find us online:



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GIVING BACK TO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

The Crazy Horse Memorial® is devoted to supporting Native students, artists, and communities. Through our museums and cultural programs, we enhance the livelihoods of numerous Native performers, artists, speakers, and culture bearers. Memorial conference space is frequently utilized by Native American organizations, including National Indian Health Board, Native Wellness, Strengthening the Circle, Gathering Indigenous Ways, First Nations Gathering, and more.

During the holiday season, the Memorial conducts fundraising initiatives to ensure that children residing on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation receive gifts and essential winter clothing. We also consistently support The Cheyenne River Youth Project's Wo Otúh'an Wi Toy Drive on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, and host a meal while providing respite for the youth runners of the Ft Robinson Outbreak Spiritual Run, honoring their ancestors by recreating their path to freedom from Ft Robinson, NE to Busby, MT. We also welcome hundreds of students from reservation schools in SD, ND, WY, and MT for educational field trips each year. In addition to offering full scholarships to all students at The Indian University of North America®, we provide scholarships to Native students enrolled in regional colleges and universities, having distributed over \$2 million in scholarship funds to date.

Our dedication extends to various Native causes, including art exhibits and initiatives that raise awareness and promote action regarding issues such as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). We serve lunch to approximately 120 MMIW riders and guests, provide conference space for speakers, and display the traveling MMIW exhibition within our complex. This exhibit, designed to symbolize the medicine wheel and incorporate the four cardinal directions, showcases photos and stories from MMIW initiatives across the U.S. and Canada. In collaboration with sponsors like Crazy Horse Memorial®, the annual Medicine Wheel Ride successfully raises funds for Indigenous women's charities based in Rapid City, South Dakota.

For over 20 years, The Crazy Horse Memorial® Educator of the Year Award has recognized an individual who has made notable contributions to Native American education in the past year. The award includes a \$1,000 grant to be awarded to an organization of the Educator of the Year's choosing, provided the organization supports indigenous students. The award is announced annually during the Native Americans' Day Celebration at the Memorial, where guests enjoy a full day dedicated to learning about and honoring Indigenous peoples, alongside a complimentary Tatanka Stew meal provided in partnership with Laughing Water Restaurant and Custer State Park. **The first Native Americans' Day in South Dakota was celebrated at Crazy Horse Memorial®, where Governor Mickelson and indigenous leaders spoke at the event about the need for reconciliation and harmony between all people.**

Photos (L-R): Educator of the Year, Gift From Mother Earth, Native Americans' Day Celebration, MMIW Medicine Wheel Riders



THE CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL STORY



In 1933, Lakota Brule Henry Standing Bear learned of a monument that was to be constructed at Ft Robinson, Nebraska to honor his maternal cousin, Crazy Horse, killed at Ft Robinson in 1877. Standing Bear wrote to James Cook who was steering the planned project, sharing with Cook that he and many of his fellow Lakota leaders had formed the Crazy Horse Memorial Association and were promoting a carving of Crazy Horse in the sacred Black Hills. Standing Bear explained that as a relative of Crazy Horse, it was culturally appropriate for him to initiate such a memorial to his cousin. In addition, Standing Bear believed strongly that the Black Hills, because of the spiritual significance to the Lakota people, was the only appropriate place for such a memorial. These two beliefs would finally lead Standing Bear to search for a skilled artist who could take on the task. At one point, he even approached Gutzon Borglum to advocate for an Indigenous addition at Mt. Rushmore. He eventually learned of a sculptor named Korczak Ziolkowski after reading of Ziolkowski's first place win at the World's Fair. After years of correspondence and delays due to war, illness, and other distractions, the two were finally able begin work on what is now known as the world's largest mountain carving in progress.

But Crazy Horse Memorial was never meant to be just a mountain carving. Standing Bear, the original dreamer, always saw the project as a full humanitarian effort and in 1948, the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation was formed to protect the integrity of the project well into the future. To this day, the Foundation is led by a diverse Board of Directors, based on the organizational structure established 76 years ago by founders Chief Henry Standing Bear, and Korczak and Ruth Ziolkowski. The mission of Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation is to protect and preserve the cultures, traditions, and living heritage of the North American Indians. The Foundation demonstrates its commitment to these endeavors by continuing progress on the Mountain Carving; providing educational and cultural programming to encourage harmony and reconciliation among all peoples and nations; acting as a repository for Native American artifacts, arts, and crafts through The Indian Museum of North America® and The Native American Educational and Cultural Center®; and establishing and operating The Indian University of North America®, and when practical, a medical training center for American Indians.

MEET OUR SENIOR EXECUTIVE TEAM



Whitney Rencountre II, is Crow Creek Hunkpati Dakota from the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe and is the CEO of the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation. Whitney previously served as Associate Director and Instructor at The Indian University of North America®. Whitney was a 2019 Honoree of Western South Dakota Child Protection Council. He was named one of 605 Magazine’s South Dakota Young Leaders of 2017. Whitney served as Chairman of the South Dakota Humanities Council and Chairman of Visit Rapid City. For 11 years, he worked as Director of the Ateyapi Program, a culturally based mentoring program working with over 1,000 students each year in the Rapid City Area School District. Whitney has a passion to build bridges in the communities he serves.

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Joseph A. Konkol is the Chief Financial Officer for the Foundation. Until he stepped into his current role, he served as the Interim CEO and Vice President of Finance at the Memorial. He has been at Crazy Horse Memorial® for over 25 years with expertise in financing and nonprofit accounting management. Prior to joining the Foundation, Joe served as the Payroll/Grant Accountant at St. John’s University in Minnesota. Joe earned a bachelor’s degree in Accounting at Southwest State University (now Southwest Minnesota State University) and passed the CPA exam in 1988.

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Chief Mountain Officer, **Dr. Caleb Ziolkowski** has several degrees, a result of his love of learning through countless hours researching, writing, and problem solving. His advanced degrees are a MA in Law & Diplomacy from Tufts University and two from UCLA—a MS in Statistics and a Ph.D. in Political Science. From 2015-2022, Caleb worked on the Mountain Crew while earning his degrees from UCLA—he helped with technical analysis and planning while at school and, in the summers, worked full-time on the Mountain. Caleb was on the path to becoming a professor—finishing a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Princeton and ready to start another at MIT—when the chance to serve as Director of the Mountain Carving arose. Faced with the choice to continue his career out east or move back to the Black Hills, he decided to be part of the legacy his grandfather began; he hasn’t looked back since.

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Mary Murtala, Chief Development Officer, is a highly experienced nonprofit executive skilled at leading teams, as she did in her most previous role as Senior Managing Director of Development at National Parks Conservation Association. Her decades of experience include other organizations such as the SEED Foundation and the University of Maryland, College Park. A collaborative and responsive leader, Murtala is a Tulane University graduate and an alumna of both the New Strategies Program for Nonprofit Executives at Georgetown University’s McDonough School of Business and the Nonprofit Executive Leadership Program at Indiana University’s Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

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MOUNTAIN CARVING PROGRESS

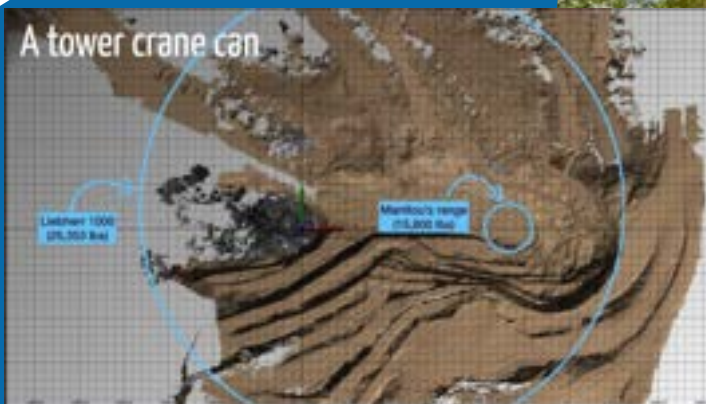
At Crazy Horse Memorial® we remain steadfast in the responsibilities of our mission as a globally recognized humanitarian initiative. One focal point remains the Memorial to Crazy Horse itself, known as the Mountain Carving, the largest ongoing mountain carving in the world. We have completed a bold fundraising initiative, the Mountain Match, boosted by a generous anonymous donor who pledged to match funds raised at a 2:1 ratio. This effort covered the cost of an industrial tower crane and robotic arm- cutting-edge tools that will propel the Mountain Carving project forward and enable us to advance the Memorial's future using innovation.

The tower crane will facilitate the use of larger equipment, diminishing manual labor and exposure to hazards, ultimately enhancing the safety and well-being of our team in the longer term. Coupled with the robotic arm, we anticipate productivity to increase up to three times its current rate, significantly reducing the project's timeline to completion.

Along with the tower crane, the robotic arm will transform the carving process on the Mountain. The current carving process has four distinct phases: Bulk rock removal; rough shaping; contouring; and finally, detail work. An industrial robotic arm can automate the contouring phase and do so in a safe, controlled way. A robotic arm would be both faster and more accurate than current technology allows with humans manipulating finishing saws. While moving, mounting, and initiating the robotic arm will require human intervention, the planning and cutting will require minimal human effort. This frees the Mountain Carving Crew to focus on the bulk rock removal, rough shaping, and detail work phases.

The weight of the robotic arm will be substantial-around 15,000 pounds! It is not feasible to move it around the Mountain other than by a tower crane. A tower crane will revolutionize access; roads are no longer necessary to move large pieces of equipment. Additionally, being able to rely on larger equipment means members of the Crew do not have to do this work manually. Safety, longevity and health are all additional benefits.

Images: Simulated visuals showcasing a robotic arm in action on the Mountain Carving, alongside the radius of a tower crane over the Mountain, compared to the radius of our current crane.



THE INDIAN MUSEUM OF NORTH AMERICA®



The Indian Museum of North America® began with a single exhibit donated in 1965 by Charles Eder (Sisseton Band of the Sioux Tribe/Dakota Nation). The impressive Charles Eder Collection is still on exhibit to this day. Since then, the Museum has grown to over 14,000 donated arts and artifacts representing the diverse histories and cultures of over 300 Native Nations.

In 2023, longtime friend and supporter of the Memorial, Gerald Forsythe, generously gifted another complete set of reproductions of David Humphreys Miller's "Custer Survivors" artwork to the Museum. The set of 72 artworks were delivered to the Memorial at the beginning of 2024, and the Museum recently exhibited six of them for the first time to coincide with the anniversary of the Battle of Greasy Grass (the Battle of Little Bighorn). The new reproductions of Miller's artwork feature a short biography of each warrior and a short excerpt from their interview with Miller. Together, the 72 new reproductions will help Museum staff tell the story of Grease Grass in a way that has never been done before.

The staff of The Indian Museum of North America® and Crazy Horse Memorial® extend their steadfast gratitude to all our gracious donors and recognize Gerald Forsythe for generously donating this special set of artworks to the Museum and look forward to furthering the educational mission of the Memorial through them.

The Museums of Crazy Horse Memorial® include The Indian Museum of North America®, The Native American Educational and Cultural Center®, the Mountain Carving Gallery, and the Ziolkowski Family Life Collection.



Photos © Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation

TRAVIS DEWES, CULTURAL PROGRAMS MANAGER AND INTERIM MUSEUM DIRECTOR



Travis Dewes, a fourth generation non-native South Dakotan and current Interim Director of The Indian Museum of North America® at Crazy Horse Memorial®, has worked within and around Indian Country for almost a decade.

Graduating from South Dakota State University with a Bachelor's in History and focusing on religious studies, English, and Lakota studies, Travis began his career working under Tim Giago at Native Sun News in Rapid City. Tim appointed Travis to many positions throughout the years which included Sports Editor, Staff Writer, and Sales Manager.

Travis joined Crazy Horse Memorial® in the spring of 2021 as Cultural Programs Manager for The Indian Museum of North America®. As Cultural Programs Manager, Travis organizes all of the Museum's seven different Cultural Programs for visitors to experience, working with over 100 different Native culture bearers each year. Cultural Programs at the Memorial host nearly 800 performances, plus artists in residence, craft workshops, nature walks, and an art show each year.

Dewes is a current member of the Museum Alliance of Rapid City Board of Directors, and chair of MARC's Governance Committee.



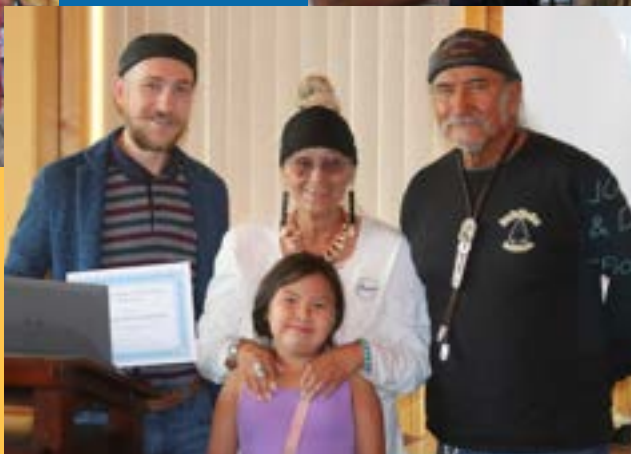
Photos: (Above) Travis Dewes, Whitney Rencountre, and members of Red Mountain Creations (Salt River Pima-Maricopa) presenting their tribal flag to the Memorial.

(Right) Travis presenting Janice Black Elk Jim (Oglala Lakota) and Daniel Jim (Diné) an award at Gift From Mother Earth Art Show.

Photos ©Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation



Photo Above: Paul Rooks (Oglala Lakota), Director of Mountain Technical Services, and Travis Dewes discuss the preservation scanning process for the original wooden bust of Crazy Horse.



EXCITING CULTURAL PROGRAMS



Cultural Programs at Crazy Horse Memorial® take place May through September annually, highlighting the living cultures of many North American indigenous tribes. Visitors look forward to a variety of artists, performers, storytellers, and culture bearers, both familiar favorites and new talents during 45-minute presentations, seven times daily totalling nearly 800 unique experiences throughout the season.

From May to October each year, guests can explore the Native American Educational and Cultural Center® to engage with the Artists in Residence or participate in hands-on projects and demonstrations with artists from the Living Treasures program and collaborate on special hands-on projects with significant cultural meaning. Some examples include bead working, miniature deer hide shields, gourd dolls, dream catchers, clothespin dolls, and monotype demonstrations.

Additionally, the popular guided hike, Mahkoche Kin, takes place on select Fridays. Led by artist and Oglala Lakota College Faculty Member, Darrell Red Cloud, this educational one-mile walk explores the significance of Crazy Horse Memorial® in the Black Hills and its importance to the surrounding tribal nations. Mahkoche Kin offers a unique perspective on the Black Hills from an Indigenous viewpoint, sharing cultural insights from the Lakota People.

As always, these programs are no additional cost when you visit Crazy Horse Memorial®

THE INDIAN UNIVERSITY OF NORTH AMERICA®

Black Hills State University (BHSU) and The Indian University of North America® (IUNA) have announced a new undergraduate semester-long certificate program, Wichozani Health and Wellness. Focused on public health and wellness education tailored for Indigenous communities and emphasizing traditional healing practices, this certificate is designed for individuals interested in Indigenous tribal healthcare services and health-related programs. It promotes cultural sensitivity, an understanding of traditional healing methods, and addresses unique health challenges faced by Indigenous communities.

Notable courses of the program include “Native American Public Health,” “Ethnobotany of the Northern Plains,” and “Native Food Systems.” This certificate complements a wide array of majors and career paths in healthcare, biological sciences, nursing, American Indian Studies, and exercise sciences. Built on the partnership established by the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation between BHSU and IUNA to offer higher education opportunities, it includes the 7TH GEN.® Undergraduate Summer Program, which supports Native students through immersive cultural and educational experiences. The program provides transferable credits to the student’s university of choice. **The fifteenth 7TH GEN.® summer program recently concluded, marking the second consecutive year of a 100% completion rate among enrolled students.**

“This is another exciting piece of BHSU’s partnership with IUNA, and we are thrilled to contribute to academic programs that support Native students,” said Dr. Jon Kilpinen, provost at BHSU. “As we worked on ideas for a Spring certificate program, it was clear that a focus on Native health and wellness would fill a critical need. There are only a few certificate programs nationally that address Native health issues, and just a handful of those are intended specifically for undergraduate students.”

*Photo: The 2024 7TH GEN.®
graduating class*



Photos ©Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation

ANGEL LEE, DIRECTOR OF THE INDIAN UNIVERSITY OF NORTH AMERICA®



Angel Lee, Cheyenne River Lakota, comes from the Itázipčho, Mnikhówožu, and Húnkpaphǎ bands of Očeti Šakówin. She has over 20 years' experience working in Indigenous Education, integrating Indigenous Lakota Knowledge/Language and Western science, continuous school improvement, accreditation, data analysis, and 21st Century Learning. She has served at the tribal college, K-12, tribal, and federal education agency levels across her homelands on Cheyenne River. For the past three years, Lee has had oversight of the Rapid City Area Schools Office of Indian Education and Title VI Program. During her time there, she served in senior leadership roles assisting the district with the Indigenous Education Task Force and Lakota Language Immersion Pilot School.

Angel earned both a Baccalaureate of Science, Biology, and teaching credentials from Northern State University, as well as a Master of Arts in Education Administration and Lakota Leadership and Management. As a Doctoral student at Johns Hopkins University School of Education, she has focused her research on entrepreneurial leadership, equity, inclusivity, and cultural responsiveness, particularly in the realm of Indigenous education systems. She is certified as both an Advanced Teacher and Advanced Administrator. Her original lesson designs of integrating Lakota language, culture and history with her research in biochemistry and optical engineering have been showcased nationally.



STUDENT SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT



Kadin Waln, from the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, was a first-year student in the summer 2024 7TH GEN.® program. He was the first ever intern for the Mountain from The Indian University of North America®. He gained many worthwhile experiences, including being part in a lidar scanning project of the original wooden bust of Crazy Horse.

Kadin is attending the South Dakota School of Mines, pursuing a BS in Electrical Engineering. He enjoyed his internship and the knowledge gained, saying, "Working with the Mountain Crew taught me valuable skills that can be used in future endeavors."

Ranger Gunville, of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, served as the Assistant Manager of Residence Life for the 2024 7TH GEN.® summer program, after previously completing two semesters of the program. She went on to earn her BS in Veterinary Technology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Ranger's next educational goal is acceptance into veterinary school and hopes to make a career opening a practice in her home community with veterinary services for small and large animals. She hopes to mentor youth who are interested in veterinary science just as she had been from a young age.

To date, over 400 students from 70 Native Nations and 29 states have successfully completed an academic program at The Indian University of North America® and continued their college studies at universities throughout the United States. Native students who start college at The Indian University of North America® are provided an unconventional level of student support from Student Success Coaches, regardless of where students pursue their degrees. In a recent survey of IUNA alumni, 72% of the respondents remained in college or had graduated. By comparison, in recent polling by Postsecondary National Policy Institute, the average college graduation rate of indigenous students is only 16.8%.