



Oglala Sioux Tribe

Office of the President



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Troy "Scott" Weston

Oglala Sioux Tribe to Host the *First Annual Great Plains Tribal Leaders' Economic Summit to Promote Governance Strategies for Economic Growth*

From the Office of President Scott Weston

Indian nations and tribes were independent sovereigns prior to the formation of the United States, with healthy, vibrant economies, self-sufficient people, and vast territories. Historically, federal Indian policies destroyed our traditional tribal economies, through warfare and the theft of our lands, leaving our people impoverished.

Today, as Indian nations, we must work together to create jobs, revitalize our economies, and promote opportunity and economic self-sufficiency for our people, especially our youth. We need to partner with our neighboring tribes along with the business and nonprofit sectors to explore new markets for our goods and services, to promote education and training for our people to excel in the workforce, and to foster value in Indian country through business skills and hard work.

So, I am pleased to announce that the Oglala Sioux Tribe is convening the First Annual Great Plains Tribal Leaders' Economic Summit in Rapid City, South Dakota from May 8—10, 2017 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel. We have invited Indian nations from throughout the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain regions to attend our gathering.

The Native Nations Institute at the University of Arizona will provide a forum for dialogue through interactive sessions with economic development experts, Federal agencies, and tribal government, community and business leaders. Tribes from North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and Washington are invited to attend this important economic summit. Our summit objectives are:

- To share examples of innovative governance strategies, best practices, and resources to assist tribal leaders to take the steps necessary to create an environment for successful economic development;
- To inspire tribal leaders and their economic development teams to explore new approaches to stimulating tribal economies, consistent with cultural contexts; and

- To provide a forum for tribal leaders in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain regions to work collaboratively to develop regional economic development strategies.

The Oglala Sioux Tribe, in partnership with the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association, Rocky Mountain Tribal Leadership Council, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Center for Indian Country Development, Bush Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, are hosting this historic gathering of tribal government, nonprofit, and business leaders. Please join us for this important event to be part of building a pathway out of poverty for our people. To register, click [here](#). For more information, visit <https://www.minneapolisfed.org/indiancountry>.