

Dena Wilson knew by the first grade that she wanted to be a doctor. During her years at Red Cloud, she says she was challenged academically and gained the skills to help her pursue her dream. After navigating the rigors of being away from home, Dena found herself at one of the nation's top medical schools: the University of Washington. Today, she is Acting Director of the Native American Cardiology Program, an Indian Health Services initiative providing critical care to Native people in Arizona.

Dena: Alongside my mother, it was Br. Denny Ryan, SJ who supported my dream of becoming a doctor. He and I were very close and he never stopped encouraging me. He helped open doors for me that I



Get to know
a Red Cloud
GRAD

Dena
Wilson
MD, FACC

Class of 1995

Meet Dena's classmates and other alumni online at www.redcloudschool.org/alumni-profiles

didn't know how to open. Unfortunately Br. Denny passed away in 1994 [of a massive heart attack.] He had also wanted to be a doctor and when he died his parents gave me a stethoscope that belonged to him. When things would get hard, I would look at that stethoscope and say to myself, 'I can do this.' That support came from Red Cloud, and his faith and belief in me helped me to succeed.

Most days I'm traveling to small clinics across Northern Arizona, providing care in the Hopi and Navajo nations. Growing up on the Pine Ridge Reservation, I knew that in order to receive specialty care, you had to travel two hours to the city. Despite how challenging it is to be on the road all the time, it's something I have to keep doing. When I see my patients, all I can think of is my grandparents—my own family. I can't imagine doing anything else.

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RED CLOUD COUNTRY

Sharing the stories of Red Cloud Indian School

www.redcloudschool.org

Fall 2014

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In a shady meadow behind the football field, four tipis stood side by side. A small fire left a thin trail of smoke drifting through the trees. Twelve students were fast asleep inside the traditional dwellings as the sun slowly rose over the hills when they were woken up by a friendly voice: "Kiké! pó!"

This summer, Red Cloud Indian School Lakota language teachers and staff designed and implemented the first annual *Malipiya Luta Owáiyawa Lakhóliya Wičhóthi* (Red Cloud Indian School Lakota Language Camp). Having been asked to 'wake up' by their camp counselors, the eager students dressed and ran outside to greet the day. For four days they would be immersed in Lakota language and traditional activities outside the four walls of a classroom.

A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

Today there remain only 6,000 fluent speakers. Executive Vice President Robert Brave Heart Sr. knew it would take a deliberate and strategic effort to prevent further loss. He saw opportunity in Lakota youth. Thus, Red Cloud Indian School set out to address this systemic issue in 2007. With the guidance of community members and elders and linguists at Indiana University, Red Cloud created the nation's first comprehensive K-12 Lakota language curriculum.

The Red Cloud Indian School Lakota Language Program (LLP) was launched as a means of promoting and revitalizing the Lakota language and culture through curriculum development, community engagement and culturally-relevant education. It was a gap that needed bridging, according to Philomine Lakota, a Red Cloud High School Lakota language teacher and elder. "Lakota has always been an oral language, which has made it difficult for some of us to learn it and retain it," she explains. "In order for our language to survive, an orthography needed to be created and recorded. There are just not many fluent speakers left to teach it."

"Red Cloud had been teaching Lakota since the 1970's. But we decided we had to transform our approach in order to really help save the language," says Robert. After raising more than \$2.2 million from generous donors and grantmakers like the Administration for Native Americans, Better Way Foundation, Endangered Language Fund, Grotto Foundation, and others, Red Cloud Indian School teaches an innovative Lakota curriculum, every school day, in all thirteen grade levels.

During last year's parent-teacher conferences, stories of the success of the new curriculum began to confirm what testing exhibited: the curriculum was working. "There were parents who told our Lakota teachers that their students were speaking the language at home," Robert said. Although the parents were happy about this, they were frustrated. "They couldn't understand what their children were saying. There's only so much a student can practice if their family doesn't understand what they are saying."

Because the investment is already paying off, Robert realizes Red Cloud must do more.

And so the camp was born. Its purpose, and ultimately the goal of Phase II of the LLP, was to encourage families to learn and grow alongside their students so they can help one other and, eventually, have those conversations. Elders, and parents like Amanda Carlow, joined the students during the daytime, taking part in activities and serving as counselors themselves. Amanda recognizes the greater value in her young children learning the language early on.

"[The language] gives the children a better sense of their identity and where they come from, so when they go off the reservation or to college, they'll remember who they are."

Robert is quick to second Amanda's sentiment, noting that the purpose of the camp was not solely about speaking Lakota; it was also a way of teaching youth about Lakota culture and traditions. The students practiced their language while engaged in Lakota games and traditional activities like raising a tipi, picking sage and traveling to *Makhiá Obhóka*, also known as Wind Cave National Park, to learn the Lakota creation story.

"I heard a young man say '*lé aypétu kiy waisté yeló*,' 'today was a really good day,'" said Philomine, as the camp came to a close. "They know these words from school and this camp empowered them to use [our language] during conversations with each other. It has given them the opportunity to speak Lakota freely outside the formal setting of a classroom."

The fall, in homes across the reservation, Red Cloud students are having more good days, and teaching their families to do the same.

Read more online at www.redcloudschool.org/camp



You can do it!

Give your Lakota language skills a try with these common words used this month!

PTANYÉTU
[ptahn-YEH-too]
Fall

WANÍYETU WÍ
[wah-NEE-yeh-too wee]
November or "Winter Moon"

SÍŦHAPA
[SEE-thxah-pah]
Football

AKÍČHITA ŦHÁŦPETU
[ah-KEE-chee-tah thxah-AHN-peh-too]
Veteran's Day

WÓPHILA ANPÉTU
[WOH-pee-lah ahn-PEH-too]
Thanksgiving

Visit us online to learn more Lakota and even download Lakota fonts at www.redcloudschool.org/LLP



America Magazine embarked upon a new project entitled **America FILMS** this September. The title of their debut documentary? "Jesuit and Lakota: Graduation at Red Cloud" within which they profile the amazing outcomes that result from this 126 year old partnership. View it online at www.redcloudschool.org/news



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dear fr. george,

Enclosed please find my gift of \$ _____ to help Red Cloud continue to educate and provide for Lakota students on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Name _____
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I would like more information on naming Red Cloud in my will or trust.

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(cut here)



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Preparations for the 2015 Red Cloud Indian School calendar are already underway. Start your Christmas shopping now! Renowned photojournalist Fr. Don Doll, S.J. has captured the rich culture and heritage of the Lakota people in a beautiful 2015 calendar. Proceeds continue to keep the doors open and the lights on at Red Cloud.

Order online now at www.redcloudschool.org/shop

NURTURING LEADERS

"People often speak about the importance of youth to the future of the reservation. Of course, this also applies to the future of the Church on Pine Ridge," says Fr. Peter Klink, S.J., who serves as the pastor of two churches: Christ the King and St. Agnes. "Our vacation Bible schools are an effort to engage the youth in their faith."

Throughout June and July, six distinct vacation Bible schools were held in communities across the reservation for area youth. From Oglala to Porcupine to Allen, the programming has covered an area nearly the size of Connecticut since the 1960s.

Along with helping to engage the future leadership of the Church, Fr. Peter noted these camps also serve a wider purpose. "Nurturing a culturally sensitive faith and spirituality among our youth invites students to know themselves as loved by their Creator. It allows a setting for them to acknowledge their God-given gifts and build upon skills in math, science and reading that they gained during the school year."

This year, school themes ranged from *Power Lab: Discovering Jesus' Miraculous Power* to *The Life of St. Kateri Tekakwitha* who was the first Native American woman (Mohawk) to be canonized as a Saint. Songs, dances, experiments, labs and hands-on learning opportunities kept the children energized. "Engaging with spiritual ideas in an educational setting is so critical to them and their strength for the future," says Fr. Peter.



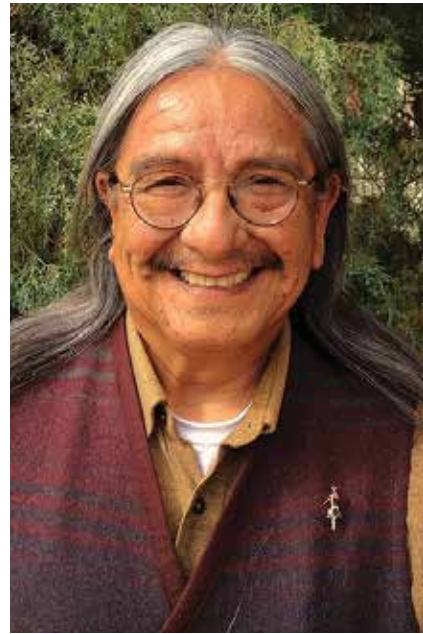
This fall, Red Cloud Indian School announced the appointment of Mr. Jose Rivera as the new Director of The Heritage Center. In his new role, Jose will be responsible for the development and execution of The Center's vision, strategic planning and programming, ensuring long term growth. He will serve as The Center's chief spokesperson and advocate, building partnerships and collaborations that strengthen relationships with diverse communities on and off the reservation and elevate the profile of The Heritage Center as well as awareness of the collection.

"I want to give the Heritage Center more national and international exposure," explains Jose. "I also see the need for a museum quality storage facility to protect the Heritage Center's art collection and for a facility to be complementary to Lakota culture and the environment. There is so much potential at The Heritage Center and I want to see that potential cultivated and realized."

Jose has most recently been working on various exhibits with the Marin Museum of the American Indian in Novato, California, having previously served as their Director of Education. He is a University of California-trained museum curator and holds a Master's in Historical Resources Management from the University of California at Riverside (completing both the Museum Curatorship and Archival Management components). Rivera is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology at the University of California at Berkeley, specializing in

Native American Ethno-history, and has invested himself in Lakota culture over the years.

Robert Brave Heart Sr., executive vice president of Red Cloud Indian School, believes that Jose's



Taking the Helm

contribution to, and impact on, the world-renowned Native arts collection, gallery and gift shop will be significant.

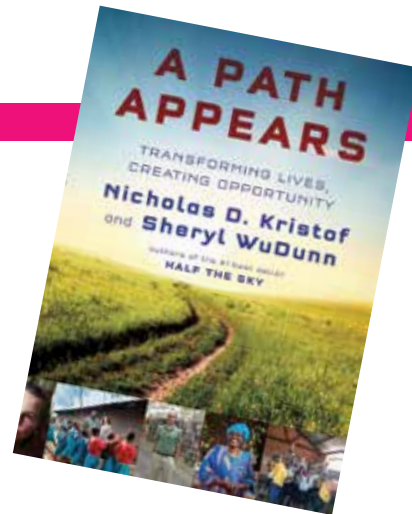
"Jose has established himself as a leader across many disciplines," says Robert. "Through his impressive career as a curator, fundraiser and steward, program manager and academic, Jose has continued to celebrate and promote Native art, culture and people. I have no doubt that this passion, coupled with his skill and experience, will benefit our innovative, arts-based educational community programming, here at The Heritage Center and at the school."

For Jose, art has and always will be at the heart of Native identity—and that simply living life is also an art form. He explained that The Heritage Center will continue to play a large and important role in helping artists share their message and their art with their community and with the world.

"Art is a way for our Indigenous people to release their inner soul, cultivate the inspiration, express their hopes, make social commentary, share their culture and a way for the artists to support themselves," said Jose. "I have dedicated my academic and professional careers to the advancement of Indigenous cultures, and The Heritage Center is the perfect place to put my academic and professional skills into practice."

Red Cloud Indian School a "bright spot on the reservation"

Pulitzer Prize winning journalists Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn released their new book *A Path Appears*. "[The] book," says President Bill Clinton "serves as an important reminder that just because we can't do everything doesn't mean we shouldn't do something."



The book brings to light some of the most worthy causes at work today...and counts Red Cloud Indian School as one of those. Pick up a copy today!

A Path for Future Generations

This spring, 39 seniors walked across the stage in our gymnasium to the thumping of drumbeats to receive their high school diplomas. I want to introduce you to one of them because her words tell more than any story I could share with you.

Her name is Savannah. Dressed in a graduation gown with traditional Lakota regalia, she began her speech in Lakota and then spoke in English. She welcomed everyone with a warm handshake. She then identified her *thiyóšpaye*—extended family—and said, "I am seventeen years old. I humbly take courage and seek knowledge and wisdom gratefully. I give thanks to my mother. She has shown me how to attain a good education. She is a courageous and strong-hearted woman."

Lakota girls are taught to observe; they watch their mothers, grandmothers, and aunts and learn from them what it means to be a young woman.

Savannah continued: "My story started with my mom. Every time I think of her story it makes me want to cry because she grew up from nothing but made the best out of everything. She came from a family of eight and graduated [from Red Cloud] high school with a family of her own. Despite all odds my mother never took no for an answer. She was relentless when it came to education. She valued education and would even walk five miles to class in college if it were her only way to get there. I remember waking up to a dim light in the kitchen and I would see papers scattered across the table. Highlighters were everywhere and it all seemed like chaos, but my mother's eyes remained serene reading papers. I would crawl back into bed with my

sister and fall asleep but that image of her with all her papers and highlighters remained in my head. I witnessed fortitude. Years later after many sacrifices from her and the family, I was sitting in a stadium and I saw my mother in a graduation gown with traditional [Lakota] regalia. I asked my grandma Mary what was happening and she said, "Your mother is receiving her diploma for her Ph.D." I had no idea."

Savannah then turned to her classmates and said, "The lesson in this story is never take no for an answer, stay true to yourself, continue to persevere and keep your humility because you can do anything. My mother is my life and my example. With her and many of our role models paving the way I encourage you to continue that path for the future generations because when you rise, we all rise."

Savannah is now enrolled at Stanford University, where she has joined three other Red Cloud alumni, each pursuing their own path to a life that will allow them to also return to help their people. Their future is filled with hope and, in that, so is ours.

On the pages of this newsletter you will read of many others here at Red Cloud whose progress you enable each and every day. Like Savannah, they could not do their work without you. We could not do our work without you.

I am deeply grateful and humbled by your commitment to Savannah and our students here at Red Cloud. You are a part of our family. I hope you will continue to walk with us as we continue to form our next generation of leaders here on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

My most sincere blessings this season,

Fr. George Winzenburg, S.J.
Fr. George Winzenburg, S.J., President

If you are updating your will to include Red Cloud, here are two examples of bequests in wills, as well as sample language you might use:

1. Outright gift of a sum of money: "I give to Red Cloud Indian School, Inc. the sum of \$_____."
2. Outright gift of a share of residuary estate: "I give, devise and bequeath to Red Cloud Indian School, Inc. all (or a percentage) of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate."

Whether it is a specific sum or a percentage of the residuary, all are a great help to us. Your legal advisor may need some of the following information: Our legal name is Red Cloud Indian School, Inc. and our address is 100 Mission Drive, Pine Ridge, South Dakota 57770-2100. Should it be needed, our Tax ID # is 46-0275071. Red Cloud is a recognized tax-exempt non-profit, religious, educational institution.



Each year we depend on thousands of friends around the world to keep our doors open and our lights on so that we can continue to implement the innovative work that makes Red Cloud a leading institution in Indian country and beyond. Thank you for being a part of our family.

MORE STORIES & VIDEO ONLINE!

► The Heritage Center helps form a connection between two worlds, **supporting scientific discovery** through the use of x-ray fluorescence analyzers, 3D x-ray CT scanners, infrared laser branding and more to peer into the Center's collection in partnership with students and faculty at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

► The Toyota U.S.A. Foundation continues its work at RCIS by awarding a \$210,000 grant to prepare **students to pursue college degrees and STEM careers** through hands-on learning experiences.

► The Midwestern Province of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity celebrates and con-

cludes 75 years of responding to the needs of children and the poor on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

► **The Heritage Center installs murals on campus** and around the reservation as part of their latest project: Inside Out: Mi Gente/Oyáte Kin. The Peoples Art Project was inspired by prolific photographer and TED prize winner JR.

www.reddoudschool.org/news

(detach here, moisten glue strip and seal)

THIS SPRING WE ASKED. THIS SUMMER YOU ANSWERED.



wopila!

More than 47 million children headed back to school across the country this fall. But for 600 Lakota students on the remote Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, the road is not a smooth one. Just getting to school on the first day would

have been nearly impossible for some, if not for the arrival of a new bus on the Red Cloud Indian School campus this August.

This past year, Red Cloud President Fr. George Winzenburg, S.J. turned to our national network of partners and friends for help raising the \$870,000 needed to replace the aging fleet. The Emilie Kolat Hesemeyer Charitable Trust responded by committing a matching leadership gift of \$250,000 with the aim of inspiring others to give. Over the spring and summer months, other partners stepped up to the challenge with donations to help make safe, reliable travel to Red Cloud's quality education possible.

And with your help, we have raised enough to purchase the first three of ten bright yellow school buses to ensure our students can continue their education.

Want your gift matched this year? Call the Advancement Office at 605/867-1105.

(cut here)



Merry Christmas to the kids!

The *thiyóšpaye* is a central part of the Lakota culture, making Christmas a special time on the reservation. By the time this newsletter reaches you, the holiday season will be in full swing! If you have a message of hope for our students, please share it by filling out this form and mailing it in the self-addressed envelope attached to this newsletter.

Thiyóšpaye: [tee-YO-shpa-yay]
(n.) extended family

We regard our donors as our family, or thiyóšpaye. In sharing your prayers, recourses and words of encouragement, we know we have a support system that extends far beyond reservation land.

Name _____ Email _____