

Sinte Gleska University

**Summary of Comments from Local High School Students  
at the 2017 Founders' Week Program:  
Language and Culture**

January 30, 2017



The following information represents the comments of local high school students responding to questions about Native cultural education.

***1. What new or different programs would you like to see SGU offering down the road?***

- More Lakota Art four-year degree programs

***2. What do you want to learn about our Native language and culture?***

- Learn the history. Know more about different tribes and languages.
- We want to learn our language more and why it wasn't taught between generations.
- More fluent speakers-storytelling
- More spiritual gatherings/cultural invites
- See cultural meditations, walks food hunts
- More ceremonial cultural events
- Everything and how to speak fluently & understand
- MORE OF IT!!!
- Revise language program, better language program
- Use/learn language & culture applicably rather than technically in an encouraging environment at own pace and time.
- Speak the language to the students
- Incorporate the language in classes other than Lakota classes (math, science, etc.)
- Natural Foods and Medicines
- Implement of Natural Resources
- Sweat Lodge
- Create speaking communities/circles in communities, online, current use of technology (smart boards)

- Revive use of traditional skills and crafts (dress making, quill working, beading)
- Revitalizing and marketing of traditional foods and medicines.
- Be more proactive with youth, show our youth that they are wakan, push and advocate for youth empowerment by utilizing traditional cultural law.
- Tradition/history from someone who is living
- More daily cultural activities, language, etc.

**3. *What kinds of jobs are you looking for after you graduate?***

- Lakota Studies/Cultural Arts Program
- Business Management/Accounting
- Instructor at SGU to give back
- Youth participation/social impacting
- Programs of certain obligations such as scouts, camp, ROTC, band choir, counseling services
- Lakota Art Instructor
- Lakota language teacher-Headstart programs

**4. *What types of technology should the University invest in?***

- A program that would help students learn to pronounce the nasal, guttural, and the diacritics of the language.
- Earpiece that translate languages (pilot) also allows wearers to speak other languages
- Apps for Lakota language

**5. *What are some ways to strengthen our Tribal Nation?***

- No IRA Govt (new government)
- Improved community relations
- No pictures at pow-wows/sundances, etc.
- Honor native students; teach how to respect our culture
- Practice the seven Lakota virtues