



SURF Cultural Advisory Committee
December 5, 2022
FINAL REPORT

Purpose of the Cultural Advisory Committee

The Cultural Advisory Committee (CAC) promotes cultural awareness in all functions at the Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF). The Committee advises the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority (SDSTA) on such things as diversity in the workforce, outreach to tribal communities and raising cultural awareness about the significance of the Black Hills to regional tribes.

The Committee's recommendations assist the SDSTA Board of Directors and key stakeholders in developing cultural awareness activities, including education and outreach programming and recruitment of underrepresented groups. Roles and responsibilities of the Cultural Advisory Committee include:

- Increase the diversity of the SDSTA workforce.
- Promote science education to South Dakota tribal students and teachers.
- Ensure current operations and future-plans are sensitive to the region's cultural heritage.
- Review Cultural Awareness Programs at SURF and prioritize initiatives.
- Review effectiveness of public and education outreach programs as they pertain to tribal communities.

Background and Overview

The CAC met with the SDSTA staff on December 5, 2022 via Zoom.

Members in attendance (short bios at end of report):

George Campbell
LaFawn Janis
Kay Jorgensen
Pat Lebrun
Curtis Peterson
Mato Standing High
Kay Schallenkamp
Erin Strauss
Rylan Sprague

Members not in attendance:

Eric Zimmer

SDSTA staff present during all or part of the meeting:

Mike Headley, Executive Director
Deb Wolf, Director of Outreach and Culture
Nicol Reiner, Education and Outreach Director



Jaret Heise, Science Director
Bonita Goode, Environmental Manager
Rochelle Zens, IDEA Program Lead
Kelly Kirk, SLHVC Director

Summary

Lab Update

Mike Headley provided updated information on overall efforts at SURF. Currently, 50% of the LBNF construction is complete. Sufficient funds have been raised for the Sacred Circle Garden to start construction which is contracted to begin Spring of 2023. SURF participated in the Snowmass summer study which was held in July. SURF received very strong support from this community. The new foundation director, Michelle Kane, will begin in January 2023. Currently repairs are being done on the upper 500 feet of the Yates shaft with a projected completion date of June 2023. A new HRIS system has been selected and will be implemented by the end of 2022.

Institute Update

Deb Wolf gave the committee an update on the visioning process of the Institute for Underground Science at SURF. Previous work on the Institute included a study in December 2019 of similar global institutes and the SURF Institute Program Study in December 2020, which included interviews with SURF users and leaders in underground science to help determine the community's needs. The scope of the Institute was determined by a working group in the Spring of 2021, and the development study was completed in December 2021. Currently, kick-off efforts are underway.

Deb also provided an overview of the scope of the Institute, which has a primary focus on the advancement of inclusion, diversity, equity and access in science and science education. The Institute will create collaborations and integrations of K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and public outreach programs with a reach extending locally and globally.

Next steps for the Institute include plans for kick off events in 2023, the plans for which will be presented to the SDSTA and SURF Foundation boards on December 15, 2022. Staff are currently having discussions for near-term programming, including a 4-week theoretical physics workshop, science talks for scientists, development of partnerships with other labs and universities, and transitioning current E&O programming to the Institute. Fundraising efforts for the Institute are in the early stages.

Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center (SLHVC)

Kelly Kirk provided an overview of the first year of SURF operation of the Visitor Center. The Visitor Center has established itself as the gateway to SURF for the surrounding community and its visitors as well as serving as a multi-use, multi-audience space in the community. Goals for the Visitor Center include establishing and building connections with SURF's public outreach (Deep Talks, Education and Outreach's teacher professional development, field trips, and other

events) and by being a partner in the Lead community (hosting Lead Chamber of Commerce community events including a Trunk or Treat, Festival of Trees, and serving as a polling location).

Environmental Update

Bonita Goode provided an update on the environmental compliance programs at SURF, including required regulations. Bonita provided an overview of the Wastewater Treatment Plant's (WWTP) processes to treat water from the underground and the tailings impoundment before being released into local waterways. She noted that SURF's WWTP has been recognized by the State of South Dakota since 2008 for its outstanding operation and environmental compliance. She noted that the Environmental, Health and Safety Department is currently considering the benefits of applying for a Wildlife Habitat Council Certification for the Sacred Circle Garden.

Science Update

Jaret Heise provided background information on the underground laboratory work and research at SURF, including SURF's position in relationship to similar facilities across the world and the unique research environment we can provide. His presentation included information on the underground spaces, research experiments, user association and future plans for the underground laboratory space at SURF. Jaret noted that there has been interest from the science community in working with SURF on cultural projects, including connections to Native Star Knowledge.

Education and Outreach (E&O)

Nicol Reiner shared several recent positive interactions the Education and Outreach team had with communities in South Dakota. The entire E&O team attended the South Dakota Indian Education Summit in September, which was held in Rapid City, SD. It was the first year the conferences was held in person since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The team offered several presentations which highlighted opportunities for utilizing the curriculum units, internship opportunities at SURF, and professional development for teachers. The team greatly benefited from opportunities to connect with teachers working in tribal communities.

Nicol also shared the experiences the E&O team had at Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School, Marty Indian School, and Box Elder Job Corps. At Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School, the team was able to build on a previous field trip the school made to SURF, while making new connections with other teachers and grade levels. Although teachers from Marty Indian School have participated in professional development opportunities offered by E&O previously, this was the first time E&O had presented at Marty Indian School and new connections were made. At Box Elder Job Corps, SURF operations staff highlighted opportunities to work at SURF within their department. The students were very engaged and asked many questions.

Through these experiences, E&O is learning the importance of connecting with community on their own terms, starting conversations, and making multiple connections to build trust and meaningful relationships.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (IDEA)

Rochelle Zens provided an update from the IDEA Office at SURF. She informed new committee members about the origins of the IDEA office, its goals and objectives, and projects to date.

The office's goals and objectives include creating a welcoming environment for employees and visitors to SURF, removing physical and perceived barriers that prevent underrepresented groups from visiting and/or working at SURF, supporting leaders who know how to build their people, and establishing relationships with underrepresented groups in the region.

One of the primary ways the IDEA office hopes to effectuate change at SURF is through leadership trainings. Topics to date have included becoming a better listener, psychological safety, exploring our core values, and systems framework. Future work will include a strong focus on connecting core values at SURF with IDEA topics and the skills needed to fully realize both.

Rochelle also shared updates on the Star Knowledge Working Group, the Sacred Circle Garden, and the Cultivating Indigenous Research Communities for Leadership in Education and STEM (CIRCLES) Alliance.

New Recommendations

No new recommendations were made at this time as the meeting's purpose was to update the committee on overall goings-on at SURF.

Old Recommendations

Updates on the recommendations from the July 21 CAC meeting were presented to the committee. Recommendations 5, 7, 12, 15, 18, 21, 22, 26, 27, and 28 have been closed.

Committee Member Short Bios

George Campbell, MS, MBA is Chairperson of the Cultural Advisory Committee. George helped establish the Cultural Advisory Committee in 2010 when he was the Cultural Coordinator for SURF. George is retired from Lawrence Livermore Laboratory.

LaFawn Janis a 7th Generation member of the Oglala Lakota tribe, born on the Pine Ridge Reservation and a longtime resident of Rapid City where she lives with her two sons. She is alumni of Black Hills State University, where she graduated with a B.S. in Education. Lafawn is committed to giving her expertise and time to impactful community projects.

Pat Lebrun holds an MBA and is president of Lebrun Investment Management, Inc., a post she has held since 1988. Prior to that, she was vice president of Simmons Financial Management, Inc. Other work experience included teaching vocal music in public schools in Northwood, N.D., and Rapid City, S.D., and as serving as Executive Director of the Rapid City Symphony.

Kay Jorgensen has dedicated her life to public service. A former District 26-31 Legislator, Kay served in the South Dakota House from 1978 to 1984 and again from 1992 to 1998. She also served a term with Spearfish School Board and was chair of the South Dakota Centennial Committee between 1984-1992. For nearly 20 years, Kay worked with Black Hills Corp, where she was the lead Director for two years and spent 10 years on the board of Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Curtis Petersen is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. Petersen grew up in Parade, South Dakota. His family's careers in education influenced his decision to pursue a bachelor's in mathematics education at Black Hills State University (BHSU), his parents' alma mater. Petersen's anticipated graduation date is May 2023. He is also pursuing an Earth science teaching endorsement and a minor in American Indian studies.

Kay Schallenkamp, PhD, served 41 years in higher education prior to her retirement in 2014. She served as President of Black Hills State University (SD) from 2006-2014 and President of Emporia State University (KS) from 1997-2006. Prior to that she held positions as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and Provost Chadron State College (NE).

Rylan Sprague is currently the Integrated Resource Program Manager for the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in Keystone, SD. Rylan has previously served as a Natural Resource Specialist for the Bureau of Land Management in Dickinson, ND; South Zone Botanist for the U.S. Forest Service at Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in North Bend, WA; and District Botanist for the U.S. Forest Service in the Black Hills National Forest. Rylan holds a master's degree in sustainability and a bachelor's degree in biology, both of which he earned at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, SD.

Mato Standing High is an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and currently lives in Rapid City, South Dakota. A licensed attorney in South Dakota and Colorado, Mato is a founding partner and attorney for Standing High Lochen LLP, a firm specializing in the practice of Indian Law. He has dedicated the bulk of his law career to a practice dedicated to assisting Tribal Nations with strengthening court systems and economic development, to name a few areas.

Eric Zimmer is a historian from the Black Hills of South Dakota. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa and is currently the A.B. Hammond Visiting Assistant Professor of Western United States History at the University of Montana. He has been a volunteer historian for the Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands Project, and is currently working on his book called *Red Earth Nation: Reclamation and Recovery on Meskwaki Land* (University of Oklahoma Press).

George Campbell, Chairperson

Date