November 2022

Anpetu Waste, Relatives!

You are invited to join one of the Advisory Boards for the new Indigenous-led Sexual Violence Prevention Center (SVPC; specific name to be determined in collaboration with the Advisory Boards) located on the Pine Ridge Reservation. As part of the SVPC, all K-12 children and adolescents on the Pine Ridge Reservation will receive a culturally-adapted version of IMpower, an empowerment-based sexual violence prevention program shown to reduce sexual violence, and complete surveys, with guardian permission, to see how IMpower is working. IMpower also includes a comprehensive system of support for survivors of sexual violence. More details on the project can be found here: [https://go.unl.edu/6gu5](https://go.unl.edu/6gu5)

There will be a Youth Advisory Board and an Adult/Elder Advisory Board. Members of the Advisory Board will provide input on what the SVPC should be named, how to get others in the community excited about the project, ways to further integrate Lakota culture into the program, what types of questions to ask on the surveys, and how to share findings with the communities.

Advisory Boards will meet every 2 or 3 months for about 2 hours each meeting. Our first Advisory Board meetings are scheduled in person at our office in Wakpamni (next to the blue CAP building) on December 1st 6 to 8 PM (for Adults/Elders) and December 2nd 6 to 8 PM (for Youth). Transportation is available, NDN tacos will be served, and we will have games and fun activities too! Advisory Board Members will receive $50 for each meeting they attend. We ask for a commitment of at least one year but hope that you will stay involved longer!

To join an Advisory Board, please contact Ramona Herrington (Cultural Outreach Manager) at (605)787-2438 or Lee Paiva (IMpower) at (605)430-9575.

Thank you again for your interest in joining an Advisory Board—we are excited for this life saving initiative and look forward to meeting you soon!!!

Wopila,

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“The ones that matter the most are the children.” ~Lakota Proverb