



NEWS RELEASE

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OFFICE SELECTS TAWNEY BRUNSCH AS 2014 MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION

Sioux Falls – The South Dakota Small Business Administration District Office has named **Tawney Brunsch, Lakota Funds, Kyle**, as the SBA South Dakota 2014 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year. The award was presented in Rapid City on June 6th at the Black Hills Community Economic Development, Inc. annual meeting.

Tawney Brunsch is the Executive Director of the Lakota Funds which provides business loans, success coaching and technical training for start-up businesses owned by members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Tawney was also instrumental in the formation of the first credit union, Lakota Federal Credit Union, on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation serving as the Chairman of the Board of Directors and is also active in the South Dakota Indian Business Alliance. Tawney and Lakota Funds help small businesses become registered as DBE's (Disadvantaged Business Enterprises), assist with SBA 8(a) certification and provide direct business counseling and training.

"Tawney and Lakota Funds are making a huge difference on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation for small business," said John L. Brown II, District Director of the South Dakota District Office. "The newly created Lakota Federal Credit Union is a game-changer with the potential to improve not only business on the Reservation but lives as well."

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For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, visit the SBA's extensive website at www.sba.gov.