



PO Box 340, Kyle, SD 57752
(605) 455-2500 tel (605) 455-2585 fax
www.lakotafunds.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lakota Funds Selected for Starbucks Foundation Grant Program; Chance to Win \$15,000 Dependent Upon Community Votes

Contact: Heidi Cuny, Cuny Communications, heidi@cunycommunications.com,
(605) 255-5909

Kyle, South Dakota – *March 29, 2012* – Lakota Funds, a Native community development financial institution (CDFI) based on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, is one of 124 non-profit organizations across the country that has been selected as a participant in Starbucks Community Card: Vote. Give. Grow., a program which enables any Starbucks customer with a Starbucks Card to help determine how the Starbucks Foundation distributes \$4 million amongst the non-profit participants.

“We are honored to be the only CDFI chosen to participate in Starbucks’ Vote. Give. Grow. program. As one of the longest-standing Native CDFIs in the country, it is so exciting to see CDFIs getting national recognition as proven vehicles for driving economic development. We encourage our supporters to vote for Lakota Funds every week through the month of April!” states Tawney Brunsch, Executive Director of Lakota Funds.

Based upon the number of votes Lakota Funds receives through the Community Card: Vote. Give. Grow. website, it can receive a grant of up to \$15,000 from the Starbucks Foundation. Each week throughout April, customers can cast a vote for one of four non-profit organizations in their own community. Votes will be tallied at the end of April and the \$4 million from the Starbucks Foundation will be distributed based on the number of votes each organization receives. Every participating non-profit will receive a portion of the funding so that their programs can continue to help neighborhood residents access services that help them gain education, housing, and employment.

To vote, customers with a registered Starbucks Card can visit www.starbucks.com/VoteGiveGrow beginning Sunday, April 1.

###

About Lakota Funds

Lakota Funds is a Native community development financial institution (CDFI) leading an economic resurgence of the Oglala Lakota Oyate on the Pine Ridge Reservation through culturally appropriate strategies reigniting the traditional Lakota spirit of productivity, commerce, and trade. For over 25 years, Lakota Funds has played a vital role in improving the quality of life for the Oglala Lakota Oyate by placing capital with new and growing businesses, providing customized business development services, and educating adults and youth on financial management concepts.