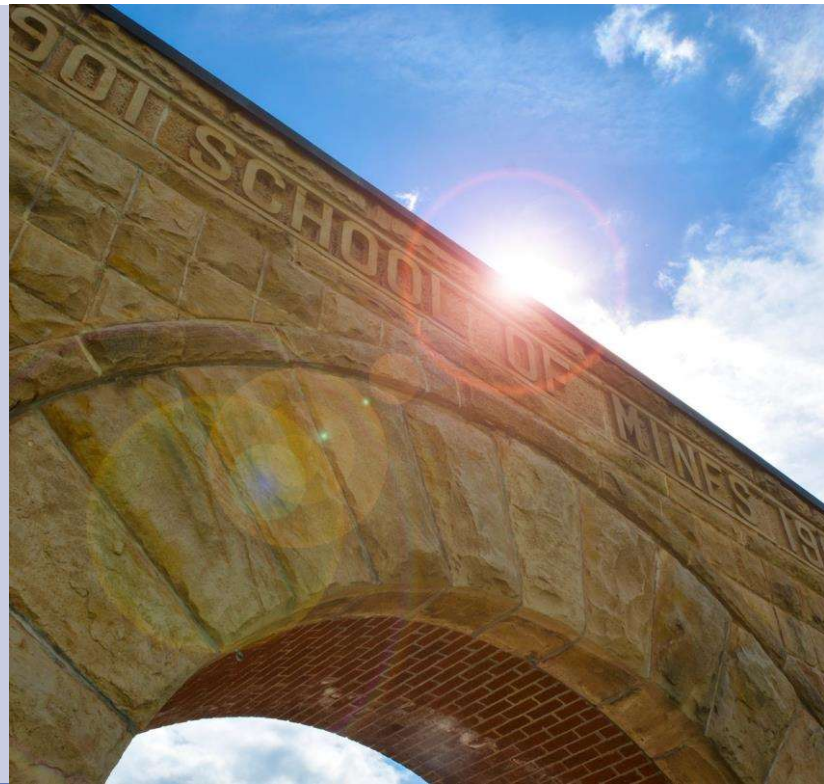


2022 First-Generation Celebration

Promoting Resiliency of First-Generation Students

Join us as Dr. Valeriah Big Eagle shares her experiences and path as a first-generation student. This event will provide students and faculty an opportunity to hear from a local community leader and enjoy some refreshments, all while networking!



Who are First-Generation College Students?

College students whose parents did not complete a 4-year college degree.



First-Generation Celebration Day

Honors the anniversary of the signing of the 1965 Higher Education Act (HEA) to celebrate the identity and successes of first-generation students and graduates.



SD-FIRST

Provides support in academic, social and economic areas with the goal of helping first-generation students find success and ultimately graduate with a STEM degree from South Dakota Mines.



Contact

Questions about SD-FIRST?

Contact:

Cassandra Birrenkott
cassandra.birrenkott@sdsmt.edu
www.sdsmt.edu/first-generation

Dr. Valeriah Big Eagle



Dr. Valeriah Big Eagle, Wakan Wocekiye Win (Sacred Prayer Woman), is an enrolled member of the Ihanktonwan Oyate and currently serves on the Title VI Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee and the Indigenous Education Task Force for

Rapid City Area Schools. She received her Baccalaureate in Sociology and her Master of Education from South Dakota State University and her Doctor of Education in Education Leadership from the University of South Dakota, specializing in Adult & Higher Education Administration. She understands the inequitable challenges that indigenous students face in education systems due to lack of cultural understanding and systemic racism, especially if they are in settings with little support for their cultural identity. Some of her accomplishments include being selected for Prairie Business Magazine's "40 Under 40" Award, the F.O. Butler in Excellence for Community Service Award, and for serving as a 2020 Bush Fellow. She also participated in various leadership programs including: Leadership South Dakota, Native Nation Rebuilders, Rapid City Collective Impact Emerging Leaders, and Leadership Rapid City.

Hosted by SD-FIRST

Tuesday, November 8th, 4-6 PM
Christensen Hall of Fame, King Center
Refreshments provided!