



2026 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Commemoration 816

Introduced by: **Senator Foster**

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION celebrating Generations Indigenous Ways and**
 2 **its impact.**

3 WHEREAS, Generations Indigenous Ways is a community-based Native nonprofit
 4 organization located on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, dedicated to empowering American
 5 Indian youth by blending Lakota cultural knowledge with science, technology, engineering,
 6 and mathematics education through indigenous sciences; and

7 WHEREAS, Generations Indigenous Ways provides year-round programming, including
 8 seasonal indigenous science camps, afterschool activities, community science seminars, and
 9 food sustainability initiatives, which foster leadership, cultural pride, environmental
 10 stewardship, and meaningful life skills among youth of the Seven Oceti Šakówin and beyond;
 11 and

12 WHEREAS, this organization’s curriculum and activities honor Oglala Lakota values and
 13 way of life, helping youth forge deep connections with their culture, the natural world, and
 14 their communities; and

15 WHEREAS, by maintaining community gardens, traditional food education, food
 16 sovereignty programming, elder support initiatives, and multi-sensory learning experiences
 17 rooted in indigenous knowledge, Generations Indigenous Ways uplifts families and preserves
 18 cultural traditions for future generations; and

19 WHEREAS, the work of Generations Indigenous Ways not only enriches the lives of
 20 participating youth but also strengthens the cultural fabric of this state, contributing to
 21 educational excellence, cultural preservation, and community wellbeing across tribal and non-
 22 tribal communities alike;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the One Hundred First Legislature of the
 24 State of South Dakota, that Generations Indigenous Ways is to be commended for its visionary

- 1 leadership, tireless dedication, and lasting contributions to the education, cultural continuity,
- 2 and empowerment of our Lakota youth.