



## 2023 South Dakota Legislature

# House Commemoration 8002

Introduced by: **Representatives** Emery, Blare, Perry, and Wittman

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Celebrating the life, legacy, and**  
2 **accomplishments of Lionel Bordeaux.**

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Lionel Bordeaux was a trailblazer in Indian education by founding the  
4 Mission, SD, tribal college, Sinte Gleska University (SGU). Along with being a founder of the  
5 university, Dr. Bordeaux served as the university president for nearly fifty years and led SGU  
6 to become the first tribal institution of higher learning to be accredited at the bachelor's and  
7 master's degree levels; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Bordeaux served in leadership roles as a councilman for the Rosebud Sioux  
9 Tribe; board member for the Native American Rights Fund; regent of the Haskell Indian Junior  
10 College in Lawrence, Kansas; and the president of both American Indian Higher Education  
11 Consortium, and the National Indian Education Association. He was twice appointed by United  
12 States presidents to serve on the National Advisory Council on Indian Education. Dr. Bordeaux  
13 also co-chaired the historic White House Conference on Indian Education; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Bordeaux recently passed away on November 16, 2022, leaving behind a  
15 legacy of dedication to Indian education. He will be remembered for being the longest-serving  
16 college or university president in the United States along with his efforts in founding the  
17 American Indian College Fund, the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium,  
18 and the Tribal College Journal;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Eighth Legislature of the State  
20 of South Dakota, that Dr. Bordeaux lived a celebrated life of continuous commitment towards  
21 the improvement of Indian education and towards positively impacting all of South Dakota  
22 through his various endeavors.