

# Dreamcatcher

A publication of the Todd County School District, Mission, SD 57555

VOLUME 28 - ISSUE 9 - ACHIEVEMENT 2019



***TCHS Commencement - Saturday, May 18, 2019 - Ben Reifel Auditorium - Mission, South Dakota***

*Todd County's Class of 2019 now holds the record for the largest number of TCHS Graduates ever crossing the stage to receive their diplomas.*

*Valedictorian Kristin Cox - Salutatorian Latoya Boyd  
Class President Donte Trujillo - Vice President Harlan Guerue Jr. - Secretary Kristin Cox - Treasurer Dylan Young  
Class Color, Champagne - Class Flower, Sunflower - Class Song, 'Stand By Me' by Ben E. King*

*"Thank you for the adventure, now go have your own."*

*...more beginning on page 16...*

**From the Superintendent...**



For anyone who does not know by now, this is the end of my "one and done" year.

This is rather a bitter-sweet column to write, as I am again leaving the Todd County School District as its Superintendent.

Thank You to the Board of Education for thinking of me to help them through this year. My task was



made easier and the operation ran much more smoothly, thanks to the District Office Staff, especially Chad, Penny, Phyllis and Monica.

Since I know these people so well, I know they will do their very best to help make the transition as easy as possible for the incoming Superintendent.

I wish to thank the community members for accepting me back, and also the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, including the Council Representatives and Tribal Education, as well as Sine Gleska University for all their support.

I will especially miss the students of the District. Their talents and determination for education are something of which we are very proud.

As you can tell in this issue of the Dreamcatcher, our school year ended with many wonderful events for students and staff.

We had a great turnout for our Staff Recognition on May 1. Many nice door prizes were awarded, the satin quilts and the plaques were beautiful and the food exceptional.

Schools produced excellent end-of-the-year programs, concerts and wacipis, and took field trips.

The highlight of May, however, had to be on May 18, when

the Todd County High School Class of 2019 graduated 101 Strong! This tops the record number of graduates, 86, which has stood for 50 years.

One final thought - parents, I plead with you to help keep your children engaged in positive activities over the summer. And please, pay attention to their use of social media. Bullying can be so dangerous, even deadly to your young, loved ones. As a school, we just cannot control social media in the community.

Have a wonderful summer. I believe I will be spending some time with my new fishing rod.

Pilamaya,  
- Dr. Richard Bordeaux



**IMPORTANT DATES...**

August 1 - Principals start

August 12-16 New Teacher Orientation

August 22-23 - No School - Rosebud Fair

August 27 - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

August 27-September 6 - Family Night

September 2 - No School Labor Day

October 14 - No School Native American Day

**TCHS Enrollment Packets must be completed...**

All 2019-20 Todd County High School students must fill out an enrollment packet before school begins August 27. This will be used to update students' information.

Enrollment will be all summer, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the Student Services Office at the High School.

All students must complete an enrollment packet before school starts. Parents/Guardians can also sign up for Parent Portal, to access a student's records on line.

Please use the outside south door to Guidance. A sign will be in place.

Due to remodeling, the front doors will be closed.

Thank you, have a great summer.

**NOTICE:**

2019-20 SCHOOL CALENDARS AND 2019-20 STUDENT HANDBOOKS WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE.



**Dreamcatcher**  
A publication of the Todd County School District, Mission, SD

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the Todd County School District  
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605-856-3501

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The Dreamcatcher is a monthly publication for patrons of the Todd County School District. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Inquiries concerning the application of Title VI, Title IX or Section 504, Affirmative Action and the Americans With Disabilities Act, be referred to the Human Resource Office, P.O. Box 87, Mission, SD 57555, 605-856-3501, or to the Regional Director, Dept. of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 1244 Spear Blvd., Suite 310, Denver, CO 80202-3582.

## TCHS welcomes incoming Class of 2023...



...In a May 24 ceremony, students listed below were welcomed to Todd County High School for their freshman year...

### HE DOG:

Jesus Barrera  
Kevin Jandreau  
Ernest Little Thunder  
Michael Little Thunder  
Kenlee Morin  
Aaliyah Neck  
Preston Neck  
Evan Plumman  
Richinda Poorman  
Glacier Running  
Inyan Running Bear  
Cante Skuya Thunder Hawk  
Hoc'okan Two Eagle  
Chance Young  
Kyle Young

### LITTLEBURG:

Heidi Ellert

### SPRING CREEK:

Xander Hernandez  
Maria Kills In Water  
Caresse Marshall  
Patti Quick Bear  
Jaeliegh Zapata

### OKREEK:

Laila Petite

### KLEIN SCHOOL:

Chaz Blotsky  
Anthony Crazy Bull  
Alexa Elk Looks Back  
Robert Riley

### TODD COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Brooke Bad Hand  
Ilyssa Barrera  
Payton Barrera  
Spencer Bear Heels  
Preston Black Horse  
Orlando Black Spotted Horse  
Keira Boneshirt  
Mariah Bordeaux  
Cariella Brady  
Alfred Brave Hawk  
Clifford Broken Leg  
Abram Bruguier  
Drayton Clark  
Madyson Colombe  
Ethan Compton  
Aloysius Douville  
Gabriel Dragg  
Hannah DuBray  
Zoe Du Bray  
Athena Dwarf  
Shanelle Eagle Star

Avery Eagleman  
Hannsone Eispahr  
Jaydin Emery  
Deja Farmer  
Phoebe Farmer  
Sage Fast Dog  
Cadence Fights Over  
James Fisher  
Anne Frederick  
Katherine Garcia  
Anthony Gillette  
RyderLee Graham  
Jordana Guerue  
Stephan Guerue  
Yance Gunhammer  
Charles Hacker  
Clarence Hacker  
Kurt Harrison  
Haley Haukaas  
Lauren Herman  
Samuel Hernandez  
Quincy High Pipe  
Aja's Iron Cloud  
Cody Iron Horse  
Karen Iron Shell  
Kathryn Iron Shell  
Simone Iron Shell  
Antawn Jack  
Myra Jackson  
Callaway Jensen

Aaron Johnson  
Jacob Jones  
Krislynn Jordan  
Carmelita Harp  
Ashton Kills In Water  
Shyleanah Kills In Water  
Viveca Kills The Enemy  
Jamie Lambert  
Israel LaPointe  
Landen Larvie  
Madison LaVallie  
Malisa Left Hand Bull  
Chandler LeRoy  
Charles Long  
Jamesen Marshall  
Jaylynn Marshall  
Keanu Marshall  
Colin McCloskey  
Hapun McCloskey  
Jacob McCloskey  
Mitchell Millard  
WimayanWin Neck  
Anyssa Neiss  
Halsey Pearman  
Stacy Poignee  
Cooper Rahn  
Bryce Redfish  
Leona Ritter  
Christopher Romero  
Darcelle Roubideaux

Rosendo Ruiz  
Verle Scott  
Caleb Shaw  
Deidra Songer  
Sharaina Spotted Calf  
Shaylene Spotted Calf  
Aspen Spotted Horse  
Red Sky Stewart  
Mitankala Stone  
Jessica Streif  
Mykal Sully  
Sebastian Swalley  
Alicia Two Eagle  
Chaney Waln  
Tremen Waln  
Jesse Waugh  
Trey Weddell  
Alex Whipple  
Maci Whirlwind Soldier  
Bailey White Hat  
Rocky Wiedman  
Kelcee Wike  
Atlantis Witt  
Electra Wright  
Sayge Yellow Eagle  
Kathleen Yellow Eyes  
Russell Yellow Eyes  
Kade Yellow Hawk  
Kylee Young



## Thank You Staff

*You are the Diamonds in our children's lives...*

*TCSD Staff Recognition - May 1, 2019*



**Todd County School District Teachers of the Year...**



From left - Elementary Teacher of the Year Carrie Kornely, Middle School Teacher of the Year Raymond Taddeo, High School Teacher of the Year Mary Lu Rich...

### **Carrie Kornely...**

Dedication to her students and the teaching profession are clearly evident the second you walk into Carrie Kornely's warm and inviting classroom. Evidence of what the class is learning hangs on the walls in colorful displays of students' work. Each and every day, Carrie sincerely welcomes students and visitors, as they enter the room.

As a veteran teacher, Carrie knows the importance of establishing routines and procedures at the beginning of the year, so her classroom runs smoothly. She adapts lessons to meet

the individual needs of her students, all the while adhering to curriculum adopted by Todd County Schools.

Carrie participates in professional growth opportunities to learn current best teaching practices. She also completed the rigorous task of becoming a National Board Certified Teacher.

Her roots in Todd County run deep. She attended elementary and high school in Todd County and is a Sinte Gleska College graduate. Honoring one of Todd County's own as a District Teacher of the Year is fitting.

### **Raymond Taddeo...**

Ray is a rare find. A teacher who has battled and defeated his own school demons. Through his own grit and perseverance, Ray has succeeded where others failed. He brings this indomitable spirit to his classroom, and more broadly, to our school.

Ray has demonstrated strong leadership skills as football coach, and a similar ability to lead young ladies who make up the staff of his "Wildcat News" school paper.

Ray knows how to plan, he knows how to teach, and he ALWAYS knows how to deliver!

### **Mary Lu Rich...**

Mary Lu Rich makes classes interesting and challenging. When you talk with the students she is one of their favorite teachers, because she works hard to help them become better. They also know she really cares about them as students and individuals. Mary Lu takes to heart building relationships with staff and students, which is so very important in our District.

Ms. Rich also teaches college. She gets involved with all of her students and figures out a system that works and

always pushes the students to "get out of their comfort zone." She truly and deeply cares and believes each one can make a difference in the world.

Mary Lu is a teacher that genuinely cares about her students and will drop anything to help anyone at any time, they say.

One student said, "I feel like Ms. Rich is a Teacher of the Year, because she gives us hope that we will succeed in life. We always come first in her eyes. This amazing, impactful teacher deserves this award!"

### **Elementary Para Pro of the Year...**



### **Pat Eddie...**

Pat is dedicated to all of our students and our staff as well. She is

a positive, supporting member of our school community and is always willing to do whatever needs doing around the school. She always puts the needs of others first.

Pat is a community member and is a critical connection between school and community members. She is the voice of reason and advocacy for our students and our school.

Pat celebrated 25 Years with the Todd County School District in 2018.

# Retiring...



*Laura Petersen*  
*35 Years*

Laura has been a loyal teacher of the students of our community for many years. Most recently, she has been working with our earliest learners, both in elementary and pre-school settings. Her approach is patient and warm.

While doing one-on-one instruction with children, she could cater manipulatives to help the child understand the learning task. In groups of children she solicits language from them by getting them to both answer and ask questions. She knows how to take an instructional theme, using creative activities to meet the desired outcome of the theme, with the individual student in mind.

Laura has a talent for specific special needs programming best directed toward learners who need reliability, predictability and kindness - as all children do.



*Vicki Klein*  
*34 Years*

Mrs. Klein began her career in Todd County teaching one year at Happy Valley, a year at Klein, one year at South, and then to White River for a year. She has spent the last 31 years teaching at North Elementary and Todd County Elementary. She spent most of those years as a classroom teacher, and a few as a technology mentor teacher and a reading specialist. The last five years have been spent teaching third grade at Todd County Elementary.

Vicki has dedicated a huge amount of time to learning new practices and helping our students be successful. She will be missed at our building.

Vicki will be enjoying her retirement years.



*Diane Linster*  
*31 Years*

After 31 years of teaching, Mrs. Linster is hanging up the calculator. Over the past years She has taught various math classes at Todd County High School: Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry, Independent Geometry and Integrated Math.

When asked what kept her teaching all those years, Dianne said, without hesitation and with a huge smile, "The kids. I love my job! I always looked forward to going to work.

"I chose this year to be my last year because I felt it was just time," she added.

Retirement doesn't mean Mrs. Linster is finished working. She will be busy traveling to spend precious time with her granddaughters in Iowa and eastern Nebraska. She will also catch up with

her reading, crocheting and watching baseball.

From all of us at TCHS - Best wishes with your retirement Mrs. Linster, and THANK YOU for all the work you have done for our students, past and present!

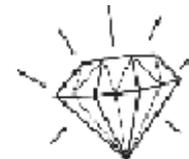


*Lynne Longcor*  
*27 Years*

Lynne has been at Rosebud Elementary as a Paraprofessional nearly 30 years. Her reliability and dedication to her students and colleagues are observed on a daily basis.

"Rosebud has been a great place to work," she said. "The people are wonderful and always have a smile on their faces."

Ms. Lynne, you will really be missed...



# Retiring...



*Sharon Hair  
30 Years*

Sharon has been working with students in the Todd County School District just one year shy of three decades, serving preschool and elementary-age children in St. Francis and Parmelee communities.

She is a dedicated professional who understands the needs of her students and serves their education by being organized and flexible in her approach to their learning. Her approach is patient and caring. She loves the process of learning and is always willing to help her colleagues to grow in their own professional knowledge.

Sharon plans to continue using her skills as a caring person within her family upon retirement. She will relocate to Colorado and have much-deserved time to spend with her nuclear and her extended family.



*Brenda Borer  
25 Years*

Todd County Elementary School will be sad to see Brenda retire at the end of the school year, after working in the district for 25 years. Brenda spent most of her time at North Elementary and most recently at TCES as a paraprofessional in the Exceptional Education Department.

Brenda is so great at what she does that she is often mistaken for an Ex Ed Teacher. She has always been able to set high work standards for students and help them meet those standards. She willingly assists wherever needed and has always treated our students with kindness and compassion, helping them to reach their potential.

Brenda has touched the lives of many of our students and their families. Our entire staff is going to miss her and her strong work ethic.

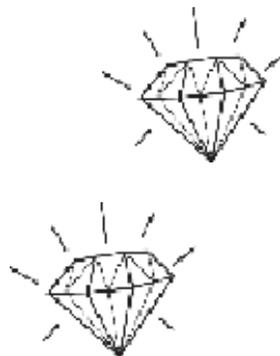


*Leslie Whipple  
23 Years*

Leslie's dedication to the students and her job, as well as her reliability has always been evident and undeniable.

Her caring attitude and high expectations of the children are observed in the way she interacts with them and the staff. Rosebud has, indeed, become a better place because of Ms. Leslie.

She will be missed.



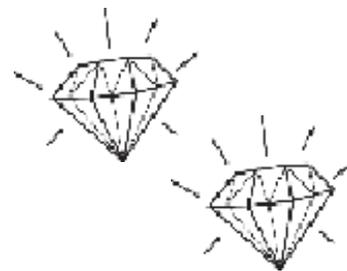
*Dr. Richard Bordeaux  
'1 & Done' Year  
(plus 16)*

"One and Done," Dr. Richard Bordeaux says. Doc will be retiring from the TCSD (again) the end of this school year, having come on board to steer the ship until another captain could be found.

Doc B. officially retired at the end of the 2007 School Year, but agreed to come back as Interim Superintendent to assist for one year this time.

For those of us who have had the privilege of serving the Todd County School District under his guidance...

"Bon Voyage, Doc." We wish you smooth sailing the rest of your retirement years.





*Alice Hansen  
Payroll*

Alice began her 45 years of service with the Todd County School District as an aide at the High School. After one school term, she accepted a position in the Business Of-

## 45 Years...

...fice and currently serves as Supervisor/Payroll Clerk.

Alice is self-motivated, dedicated, and reliable. Todd County employees can be assured their payroll will never be late.

Throughout her years with the District, she has been involved in several projects. She helped write the first handbook for support staff, she helped establish a Wellness Program, and served as an officer with the South Dakota Association of Educational Office Professionals, including a two-year term as president.

Alice is a hard working, loyal employee who has a vast knowledge of the payroll process. The District really appreciates her reliability and consistency.

## 35 Years...



*Cindy Bachelor  
Teacher - Littleburg*

For 35 years, Cindy Bachelor has been boo-boo kisser, hand-holder, silly song singer, story teller, shoelace double-knotter jumprope twirler, word sounder-outer, tear dryer and (of course!) teacher to some 400 Littleburg kindergartners. Through Cindy's love and kindness, hundreds of children have grown into teenagers, college students, parents, and even grandparents.

Cindy fondly remembers a time in 2008 when a blizzard suddenly enveloped the county. With heavy snow making travel impossible, Cindy, two other teachers, and a cook made tents, played games and spent the night at Littleburg with about 12 students. Many of these students had never



*Steve Heinert  
Teacher - TCMS*

Steve Heinert has served the students and families of the Todd County School District in a wide variety of roles. This is his 45th year of teaching for TC. He has been a paraprofessional, a student

spent the night away from home before, yet Cindy and her staff were able to comfort them through the night. Cindy Bachelor's name has become synonymous with Littleburg Elementa-

teacher advisor, a teacher, and a coach. Students love his classroom, but most of all his stories that he relates to real-life situations.

Mr. Heinert has so many connections to this community and he is an honored mentor for the TCMS staff and students. He has been teaching at TCMS since it opened in the early 90's.

Mr. Heinert was asked, "Why don't you become an administrator?"

His response, "I want to be in the trenches with the students."

Steve's family includes - wife Freda, daughter Teana, son Joseph (who is also being honored this year for 10 years with the District), grandkids Arika, Joslin, Lindy, Tyrese, and great-grandkids Xavier, Carter, and Kenneth.

Steve is a homegrown product and lifelong community member of Mission.

ry over these past four decades. Cindy's dedication to her craft, to her community, and to her students will continue to influence lives for decades more.

*Claudette Crow Eagle  
Paraprofessional*

Claudette started working at Rosebud Elementary in January 1984, as a Paraprofessional. She has worked with all grade levels and is currently with the Kindergarten Class. Ms. Claudette is willing to assist wherever needed and is called upon frequently to assist in the office.

She says she enjoys working at Rosebud Elementary and plans to be there another 30 years!



## 30 Years...



*Marlys Walkling*  
Principal  
Rosebud & Lakeview

Marlys has shared her enthusiasm for teaching and learning with everyone for 30 years! Her recent accomplishments include her National Board Certification in 2011, and a Specialist in Education degree in 2013. This latest certification allowed her to become the principal at Rosebud Elementary and Lakeview School.

Marlys lives her belief that relationships are the building blocks of success. She is a listener, who values each person's voice. She is able to make each individual feel respected and accepted. Her loving kindness and compassion are manifested daily in her words and her actions to those around her.

Marlys uses data to lead her school and strives to think outside of the box to ad-

dress her school's needs. She considers the strengths and needs of each individual and supports her staff to continually grow as professionals. Consistent with this, Marlys has excellent rapport with parents and students. She works hard to provide the best-case scenario for every child, parent, teacher, and colleague, in a kind, compassionate and knowledgeable manner.



*Gwenda Jackson*  
Secretary - Bus Shop

Gwenda and Greg Jackson, who live in the Lakeview area, have four children, all of whom graduated from Todd County High School with high honors.

Gwenda's first job with the TCSD Family was as a Suburban driver, as well as a substitute in the classroom. She also cooked between bus routes.

She then worked as an Exceptional Ed teacher at Spring Creek, subbed at lunch halls on the Mission Campus,

drove for basketball games, ran the clock and kept score, and made activity bus runs at Lakeview and the High School. "And I loved it," she said.

Next, she worked as a receptionist at the High School and says she really "met a lot of great kids."

## 25 Years...



*Melissa Larvie*  
Secretary - TCES

Melissa has worked the last five years with the District at TC Elementary. She most recently became one of our secretaries, and knows almost everyone who comes in.

Melissa encourages our students to have good attendance, and is always looking out for them. She is the go-to person when little girls feel like their hair needs a little fixing before class. She can always be counted on to make sure no student is hungry and has what they need to be successful in school. She also looks out for our staff and has a great sense of humor.

Gwenda has now been a secretary and dispatcher at the Bus Shop for 17 years.

"I work with great people every day," she said. "They are like my extended family, and I hope, in some way, I have been able to be a positive addition to the Todd County School District."



*Marie Reagle*  
Secretary - TCAS

Marie began work for the Todd County School District in August 1994. She drove a Suburban, and also worked as a custodian and secretary at the Bus Shop until 1998.

Since that time, she worked at the District Office, and is currently secretary at the TC Achievement School.

Marie has three children and five grandchildren. She loves her job at Todd County, because she likes working with the children. "They are all special in their own way," she said.

Marie enjoys family time and cooking when she is away from work.

## 25 Years...



*Carol Galbraith*  
Exceptional Ed Director  
Resource Center

Twenty-five years ago, Carol Galbraith came to the Todd County School District to teach in the Gifted and Talented Program. In 2001, while retaining her job as a teacher, she was given additional responsibility as Program Coordinator in the Exceptional Education Department. During this time, she also completed her Masters Degree in Educational Administration and an Education Specialist Degree in School Superintendency. In 2008, upon the departure of her mentor, Debra Lucas, Carol began her tenure as the Director of Exceptional Education.

In 2013, she was inaugurated into the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame (this fact, she would most assuredly rather be left aside—even though she was South Dakota's leading rebounder, pulling down 1,625

balls).

Carol remains at the helm of the Exceptional Education office. She has direct leadership of office personnel, traveling teaching and paraprofessional staff, bus drivers and custodians. She negotiates and maintains a number of professional specialist contracts with providers such as speech, occupational, physical therapists and school psychologists. Among her proudest achievements is the annual Special Olympics Mission Games. Every year, this event requires from her department a coordinated effort and a great deal of dedication to the Olympic athletes from our entire region.

One of Carol's greatest assets is her ability to maintain her focus on the children and families we are all here to serve. She is deeply committed to them. She is committed to the understanding that teachers are the fuel that drives this effort. She is moved by their worthy endeavors.

Simultaneously, Carol is inspired by the important labor done by so many other staff people within the District, whose presence every day matters in the lives of the children. The exertions of the cooks, custodians, bus drivers, secretaries, paraprofessionals, and maintenance staff are no less important in her eyes. She truly believes they are all critical members of the team of educators.

Carol is soon to embark on her next adventure, that of the Superintendent of Todd County School District. She begins those responsibilities in July.

## 20 Years...



*Candi Reagle*  
Ex Ed Teacher

Candi has already had a long career in education, working with elementary children in different capacities, including kindergarten, computers and Exceptional Educa-

*Dave Worsech*  
Parapro - TCMS



tion.

This year, Candi has made a switch to the preschool Exceptional Education population and has been a welcome addition to the Preschool Team. The length of her time in Todd County is made obvious to her every time she finds that one of her former students is now the parent of her preschoolers.

Candi demonstrates joy upon the arrival of her preschool kids. Many of them greet her with a hug at the beginning of their school day. She knows her kids well and enjoys telling stories about their antics to her colleagues.

Candi has a genuine empathy for parents and spends a good amount of time cultivating relationships of good communication with them. This helps the school/community relationship for the whole preschool program.



Dave has spent the last five years working at Todd County Elementary School, following 15 years at other locations in Todd County. He is a wonderful paraprofessional in the Exceptional Education Department. He is known to be very reliable, and willing to do whatever needs to be done, including driving bus.

Dave is cheerful and kind, working to establish strong connections with the students he serves.

# 20 Years...



**Georgia Guerue**  
*Teacher - He Dog*

Georgia "Dete" Guerue has been with the Exceptional Education Department at He Dog all her 20 years at the school.

She is the "go to" person for the facility. She drives the Suburban to fill in when others are gone. She is also one of the health aides. And, of course, she is invaluable in the classrooms.

Dete has been the girls and boys basketball, track and cross country coach for many years. Her Lil' Lady Bulldogs have cleaned house over and over, coming out the Elementary Champions! One year, when their principal, Debra Boyd was so ill, they dedicated their entire season to her, making it an especially rewarding win for all.

Dete, we salute you and must say you are definitely a "team player."



**Sandra Hausmann**  
*Teacher - TCES*

Mrs. Hausmann is currently a second grade teacher at TCES, where she can be found in her constantly busy classroom, or leading her collaborative team in planning lessons and activities to improve student learning.

Mrs. Hausmann is known for building strong relationships with her students and their families to help them succeed.

When not at work you might find her busy with family activities, or volunteering with Boy Scouts and her church.



**Cindy Sokol Homan**  
*Teacher - Spring Creek*

Cindy began her 20 years of dedication to the Todd County School District at Spring Creek Elementary. During her years of service, she has worn many different hats. She has fulfilled classroom-teaching roles and also served as a technology/instructional coach.

Cindy is currently teaching at Spring Creek Elementary in a multi-grade upper elementary classroom and serves as Eighth Grade Advisor.

She is the proud mother of four children and grandmother to three beautiful grandchildren.

Thank You, Cindy, for your service to the Todd County School District.

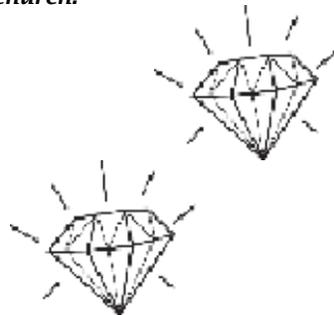


**Carrie Reinders**  
*Counselor - Rosebud*

Carrie Reinders has been the Counselor at Rosebud Elementary for the past 20 years and the Counselor at Lakeview School for the past six years.

She has been an Elementary Cheerleading Coach, the Peer Mediation Coordinator, and the head of the Counseling Department. She has newly acquired the license of a Licensed Professional Counselor as of March 16, 2018.

Mrs. Reinders is currently working towards being a Licensed Professional Counselor in Mental Health. She is always there with a listening ear for students and staff to support and assist them through all situations.



# 20 Years...



*Phyllis Littau  
Public Relations  
Curriculum Center*

For 20 years, Phyllis Littau has been the face behind the camera at school events and board meetings, snapping pictures of students and staff. Phyllis's tireless work allows families and community to see our students and teachers at work, featured in the school newspaper, the "Dreamcatcher," which she publishes each month.

Phyllis says her greatest joy is seeing the faces of the children when they realize they will be in the Dreamcatcher.

Phyllis also designs and produces a yearly school calendar, which provides families and community members information on what is happening in the District. It also features beautiful photos of the students and our communities.

Staff Recognition Night is made all the more special by

Phyllis's fortitude and perseverance. She works for months ahead of time, planning the right theme, organizing decorations and food, creating the keepsake book that everyone treasures, and gathering door prizes. Her organizational skills and eye to detail are invaluable. She also much appreciates the cooperation she gets from other staff members.

As you enjoy your evening, keep in mind that you can thank Phyllis for making this night a memorable occasion for you and our honored guests.



*Rhonda Stoeklin  
Teacher - TCMS*

Rhonda was originally a Language Arts Teacher at Middle School, but for the past two years she has been leading classes in a variety of performing arts, such as public speaking and drama.

Ms. Stoeklin is also the Theatre Arts Advisor, and is responsible for coordinating the District-wide plays. The plays have been amazing, and Rhonda is obviously a very talented director.



*Everett Bordeaux  
Parapro - Rosebud*

Mr. E.'s first couple of years was spent in the Exceptional Education Department and the next seven, as the School Librarian. For the last 11 years, he has been a Para Professional in a variety of classrooms with the last few years being spent in Mrs. Hammer's room, where together they have created a strong instructional team.

Mr. E. is willing to assist with technology and assist in all aspects of teaching. He is also known as the "Birthday Singer" and makes sure students and staff, in fourth and fifth grades, feel special on their birthdays.

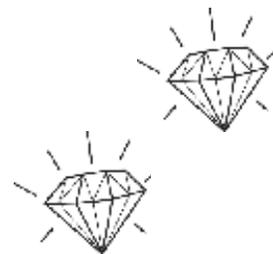


*Patrick Johner  
Teacher/Coach - TCMS*

Patrick Johner, the avid Duke Blue Devil basketball fan has been at the Todd County High School his entire teaching career. He has taught World Geography, US History, and Personal Finance throughout his tenure.

Along with his teaching assignments, Mr. Johner gives his time to coaching. Coach Johner was an assistant boys coach and currently an assistant coach for football and girls basketball. Mr. Johner was a vital part of both the boys and girls basketball programs that reached the State A tournaments.

The Hanna Elk Mountain High School graduate out of Wyoming met his wife Natalie in 2000. They married in 2002. The Johners reside on the Frederick Family Ranch at Carter, South Dakota.



## 20 Years...

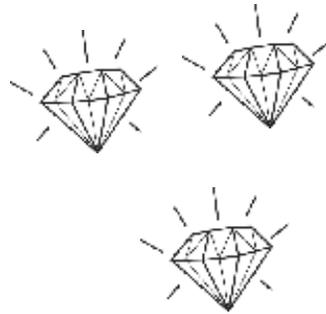


*Patrick Bordeaux*  
*Security - Rosebud*

Pat wears many hats at Rosebud Elementary. He began as a Paraprofessional, and is presently working as the Security Guard. He coaches basketball, is the Athletic Director, and drives a bus.

Pat knows the ins and outs of Rosebud and always has a caring attitude towards his job.

It really shows that Pat has the students' best interests at heart.

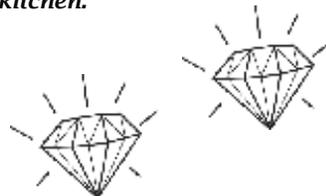


*Janet Colombe*  
*Technical Asst. - TCMS*

Janet Colombe has served the students for two decades now. She was originally at the High School Dining Hall and currently works at TCMS.

Janet always has a smile and kind word for students and staff. TCMS thinks they have the best-tasting food in the District, because it is made with love by the Food Service Team.

Janet is a huge piece of the love coming from that kitchen.



## 15 Years...



*Bryan Burnette*  
*Dean of Students*

Bryan is a great asset to the Todd County School District. He does his job for the students of Todd County to make sure they have the best opportunities in life. Bryan's motto has always been, "Whatever is best for the students."

Bryan is a proud Todd County High School Graduate with the Class of 1991. His children - Blake, Bryant and Brooke have all attended Todd County Schools.

Bryan works tirelessly to make sure the data entered in Infinite Campus is correct. He is a gem for staff members who may struggle with a process, or who are new to the District.

Before the official student count date in the Fall, Bryan visits all the schools, touching base with all the secretaries to make sure all student data has been entered so EVERY student is counted.

Bryan is the District's "Go to" guy when reports are needed from Infinite Campus. He runs report cards, prints labels, and responds to all questions regarding that program.

At the community level, Bryan has worked tirelessly with the Mission Mayhem Teener Baseball Program for years. At work or play, Bryan is truly a team player.

## 5 Years...

*Barbara Sully - Timothy Cournoyer*

*Rayni Gassman - Josh Larson*

*Mark Edwards - Jordan Rahn*

*Mary Lu Rich - Paula Wortham*

*Gwen Wenig - Colleem Pettigrew*

*Ki Kuhre - Darci Arnold*

*David Ecker - Theodora Marshall*

*Melina Orengo*

# 15 Years...



**Bobbie Cox**  
Principal - TCES

It is not easy overseeing the ins and outs of a school with almost 600 students. But, if you are looking for a knowledgeable, compassionate and strong person to do the job, Bobbie Cox is your huckleberry.

Bobbie has been an influential leader in the Todd County School District for 15 years. As a teacher, she worked with students and parents, providing a quality education and helping students set goals for themselves.

After becoming a principal, Bobbie continues this work by leading her school to provide students with an education that goes beyond just academics. She believes that school should not only teach students to read, write and do math problems, but that school day experiences should help them develop skills in

critical thinking, problem solving, and teamwork.

Her voracious search for knowledge and solutions allows her to lead and support her staff in providing a powerful, well-rounded education for all students.



**Patricia Iron Shell**  
Parapro - TCES

Pat Iron Shell is a Baltimore, Maryland native. We at Todd County High School do not hold that against her.

In 2003, Pat moved to Mission and later that year started working as a substitute teacher for both the high school and middle school. From 2004 to 2011, she worked as the attendance secretary.

Then, in the Fall of 2011, she started working in the Exceptional Education Department at Todd County High School and found her passion.

"The best part of my job is working with the kids," she said. "I get to see students find their success. Sometimes it doesn't come easy but with

the hard work the students find it. Their smiles always get me."

In her spare time, Pat likes being with her two children, Gabby and John, and, of course, her grandchildren.



**Ira High Pipe**  
Parapro - He Dog

When Ira High Pipe was hired by the Todd County School District, he brought with him his years of experience of his Native Language and Culture to He Dog School. He worked for several years as He Dog's Lakota Language Instructor, then moved to the classroom.

Ira has been invaluable to the He Dog School family. He is a person who does not hesitate to set people straight on how culturally relevant or appropriate the lessons and teachings are for the students. He has been called upon to help teachers with lessons pertaining to Lakota History and Culture, to help set up cultural activities for

the students, and to help out wherever he can.

When Ira was honored five years ago at Staff Recognition, his principal said, "He Dog is so lucky to have such a caring and compassionate man working at the school for the students."

He Dog is still very lucky to have Ira High Pipe on its staff.

# 10 Years...



**Willie Thompson**  
Bus Driver - Rosebud

Willie Thompson is one of the reasons Rosebud Elementary looks so good. He has been the Head Custodian and Bus Driver at Rosebud Elementary for the past 10 years. Willie is driving bus, cleaning, fixing something, or improving the school and grounds by his handiwork.

We thank him for ALL he does to keep our school in tip top condition.

# 10 Years...



**Stephanie Schuyler**  
Teacher - Ex Ed

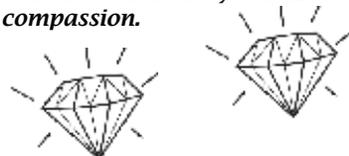
Teacher Steph works with infants, toddlers, pre-school and Headstart children.

This year, she has been able to do some creative planning for her older preschool children by utilizing the staff of the Parmelee Headstart as team members - all of them working together to address student needs in multiple environments.

She manages a pre-school caseload, applying her early childhood experience to meet the varied array of challenges her students bring to the classroom.

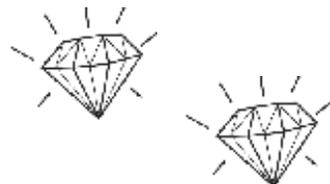
Stephanie is the provider for some of the lower elementary students on IEP's. This enables her to extend her expertise to her regular education colleagues by sharing teaching strategies and demonstrating techniques.

Stephanie has a skilled approach with families. She can conduct difficult conversations with honesty but also compassion.



Carla is an Exceptional Education Paraprofessional at Todd County Elementary, currently working on becoming a certified teacher.

She is very calm and works well with our students. She has been both a General Education Para and Special Education Para in the past and we look forward to the future Carla has as a teacher.



**Carla Felton**  
Parapro - TCES



**Joe Heinert**  
Supply Manager

Even though he is a young man, "Joe Heinert is an excellent boss and a great guy

to work with," his employees say.

Joe is an avid golfer and loves fishing every chance he gets.

Joe's Grandpa, George Heinert, was a creative sculptor of many items, from small, intricate creations to massive iron animals, made from old farm equipment and tools. Joe is now remodeling Grandpa's home, and it is nearly ready to move into.

Grandpa George would be proud, Joe.

Joe is also the proud father of daughter, Lindy, who graduated from Todd County High School with the Class of 2018.

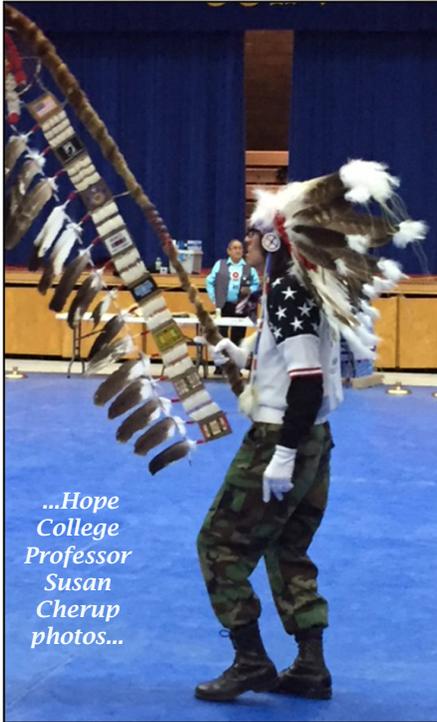
Another note of interest - Joe's dad, Steve is being honored for 45 YEARS with the District!

## Thank You Staff Members for Your Service to the District... TODD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

- President Sandra K. Dillon
- Vice President Debra Boyd
- Member Linda Bordeaux
- Member Shelley Means
- Member Michelle Allen

...In addition to door prizes for Staff Recognition Night furnished by the Todd County School District, A Big 'Thank You' to Buche's, Stadium Sports, Teena's Kitchen, TCSD Superintendent Dr. Richard Bordeaux, Ace Hardware, & Badlands Quiting...

# Todd County High School Class of 2019 Senior Honoring...



# ...Todd County High School Class of 2019...



Cameron Antoine\*\*



Eden Arcoren\*



Tianni Arrow\*\*



Callista Baker+\*\*



Corrin Bettelyoun



>Aiden Bizardie



Dillon Black Bull



Stephanie Black Moon



>Latoya Boyd+\*\*



Michael Brave Jr.



Gabrial Broken Leg



Wamni Brushbreaker



>Bryant Burnette+\*



Chalee Chasing Hawk



Alvaro Clairmont



>Kathryn Clairmont\*



Kassius Colombe



Jewel Cortier



>Raven Cournoyer+\*\*



Eric Cox



Kristin Cox+\*\*



William Crazy Bull Jr.



Jacob Crow Eagle



Alexander Douville



Emily Dragg\*\*



Wiyaka DuBray



Kylie DuPris\*



Tezjon Duysak III



Adam Eagle Feather



>Brooke Espinoza\*



Lahela Farmer+\*\*



Maija Farmer\*\*



Tre Von Farmer





*Johnathon Fast Horse*



*Jordan Fast Horse*



*Adonna Fogg-Bordeaux*



*Harlan Guerue Jr. +\*\**



*Shiloh Gunhammer*



*Shyanna Hacker+\**



*>Lacee Halligan*



*Dominique Harris*



*Kaile Haukaas*



*Jamall High Crane*



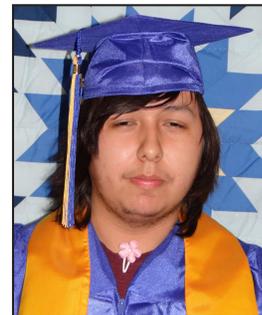
*J'Nathian His Law+\*\**



*Nathaniel Jones*



*Jayden Kettell*



*Maximus King*



*Sydney Knox*



*Rianne LaPointe*



*>Jarrett Leneagh\**



*Jason Little Elk Jr.*



*Kashawn Little Elk*



*Shanelle Lone Dog+\*\**



Wawokiya Win (Bobbii) Long



Kylie Long Warrior\*



>Marissa Long Warrior\*



Montoya Makes Room For Them



Skyler Manzanares



>William Marshall Jr.



Ted Maxey



Tyrone Mizner



Alanis Murray



Anton Murray\*



Alicia Neck



Wesley New Holy Jr.



>Ethan One Feather



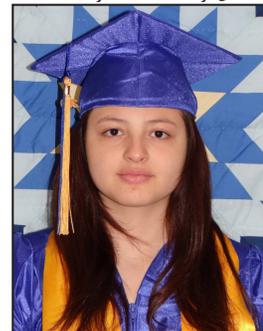
Kameron Packard



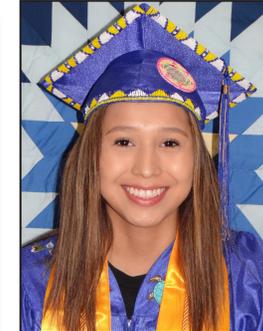
>Lainie Plank\*\*



Morgan Provenzial



Karli Prue\*\*



>Haylee Quick Bear\*\*



>Kylie Randall+\*\*



Taylor Red Hawk



Mark Rogers Jr.



Joshua Rowland



Erick Salazar



Jolie Schmidt



Chance Scott



Piper Smith



>Teciah Spotted Tail+\*\*



Wohableza Stone



Shane Swift Hawk



Maia Taranto



>Talia Trimble



>Donte Trujillo\*\*



Emily Two Eagle



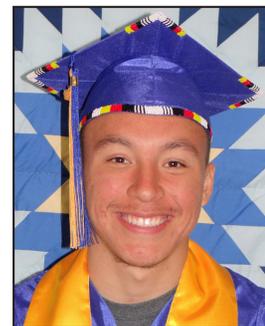
Shane Two Eagle



Sebastian-Bryce Two Elk



Dennisa Valandra



>Brendan Wain\*



>Brandon Whipple+\*\*



Wamniomni Whirlwind Soldier\*



>Doris White Hat+\*\*



Jayden Rose Whiting



Payton Yellow Boy+\*\*



>Sammantha Yellow Eagle\*



Diamond Young



Dylan Young+\*\*



Ralph Young III\*



Natalie Zaragoza\*



Elsa Zimiga

*8x10 Prints of these individual  
2019 TCHS Graduates are  
available free of charge.*

*Please contact Phyllis Littau at  
856-3530, 208-0104, or  
phyllis.littau@k12.sd.us, and provide  
your address for copies.*



**\*\* - Graduates with High Honors (3.5-4.0 gpa)**

**\* - Graduates with Honors (3.0-3.4 gpa)**

**+ - Regent Scholars**

**> Blood Donor Heroes**



Kernit Grimshaw Photo...

### Valedictorian Kristin Cox...



Good morning. It is a great honor to be representing the class of 2019. Thank you all for coming today to help celebrate our great accomplishment.

I have been a part of the Todd

County School District my whole life. Twelve years ago, we walked into elementary school, not knowing what to expect. As we grew older, we grew closer. We knew from day one, this day (today) was gonna be the best day of our lives, and we couldn't wait for it to come.

Throughout my four years here at the high school, I was always told that these years would go by fast, and that they would also be the best years of your life. And now that our high school career is ending, I have come to believe that statement is true. High school does fly by.

Our Freshman year, we entered the building, scared, excited, and ready to face whatever life threw at us. We fought, we laughed, we cried, but we knew we were in a for a great adventure. We watched each other succeed, like the girls basketball team making it to state, the cheerleaders winning the 'Spirit of Six' award, and seeing each other get recruited and accepted into colleges.

As we continue to grow up, we

will start to reminisce about all of these memories we made together - our first pep rally, our last homecoming, Lakota Nation Invitational, school field trips and even the simple laughter in the classroom.

There are some things we wish we could have done, some things we wish we would have done better, and some things we wish hadn't done at all, but we can't leave with regrets. Everything we did in the past lead us up to this point, and now, we're finally graduating. We fought all the stress, all the hardships, all the procrastination, and we were able to finish strong. We did it and I am so proud to see far how we've come.

Here in this class, you will see future doctors, lawyers, business men, actors, artists and even some in the military. We are starting to pave our own road for a life of success, but we wouldn't have gotten here without the help of all our teachers and staff here at Todd County. Let me say, "It has been a good run, Todd County."

I will never forget all the good

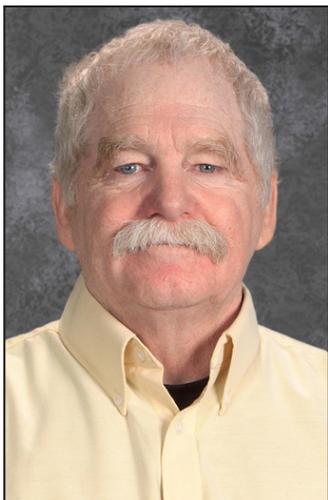
times and all the friends I've made along the way. Some I just met this year, others have been in my life 10 years or more. And I couldn't be happier than to be spending my last day as a kid with you all.

As I stand here in front of you today, I'm going to leave you guys with this. Never give up on your dreams and your aspirations, continue to strive during your journey of life and never forget what you got you there. Class of 2019 will forever be in my heart, and I will never forget the journey it's been with you guys.

I'd like to thank my parents and family for supporting me and pushing me to do my best, I thank my friends for making me feel better on my roughs days, and the teachers and staff for showing me there is more to life than what is in a classroom. But most importantly, I'd like to thank the class of 2019 for the adventure

Now, let's go have our own.

### Guest Speaker Bob Critchlow...



I am extremely humble to stand before the Todd County High School Graduates of 2019, their relatives, friends. School Board members, educators and tribal

members, on such a memorable occasion. This is also a special tribute to our relatives who are looking down from above with pride. (Tonya and Carl will be with you today on stage).

I would like to acknowledge Dr. Richard Bordeaux for his vision, leadership, and advocacy, and thank him for allowing me to serve the students and families of the Todd County School District - my extended family - for 25 years.

Seven years ago, I had the privilege to serve the majority of the graduates and families sitting here today. We sensed at that time, that this young sixth grade class possessed unique gifts that were clearly evident - a depth of character, empathy of the human condition, a genuine maturity and support and encouragement towards their classmates. Their commitment and shared goals then were clearly evident. Today is a culmination of their struggles, sacrifices, hard work and perseverance. I ask you to cherish this moment, the memo-

ries will last a lifetime. Reflect on the footprints you have left in the classrooms, the halls, the sports arenas and in the hearts of our friends and educators.

Your past behaviors are life lessons, not a life sentence. We choose our behavior. Accept personal responsibility for your behavior.

Our work is to find our happiness, our purpose is contributing to the common good, which is hard work, but worth every minute of it. You are graduating at a time in history that requires purpose, or a reason for existence. When you pursue your purpose, life becomes filled with direction and meaning. Never stop working on yourself. Make it a priority to always be searching for the best in life.

In my 72 year journey here on earth, I have realized that you can't do it alone. My greatest gift in life are my friendships. A friend is someone who gives you total freedom to be your true self. Friends are the family you choose. Everyone needs someone to lean

on.

My vision for today's graduate is to make a contribution to the value of others. Discover your compassion for Veterans, those who may be less fortunate, those having no voice. Hear the quiet voices that others do not hear. See those who are invisible, feel unwanted, unloved and uncared for, the powerless. This has become our nation's greatest poverty. Be a part of the solution. The gift of service is one of the greatest gifts we can give ourselves.

You are the authors of your own stories. Become the best version of yourself. Whether you know it or not, you are already leaders.

As much as we would like to stay in the safety and comfort of our home, it is time for you to turn the page. The time is now for you to start the next chapter in your story. The last chapter will be holding true to your core values and beliefs. You are our dream and hope for tomorrow.

*..2019 Dakota Chapter National Honor Society...*



*New Members:*

**Laila Bordeaux,  
Sydni Burnette,  
Trinity Burning Breast,  
Hayden Espinosa,  
Warren LaPointe,  
Taron Menard,  
Kassy Hardesty,  
Isaac Lindskov,  
Amia Roach-Valandra,  
Kathryn (Amya) Merrill,  
Caydence Night Pipe,  
Nicole Peshlakai,  
Adelia White,  
Precious White Bull,  
Kenzie Wooden Knife**

*...not all members were present for the photos...*



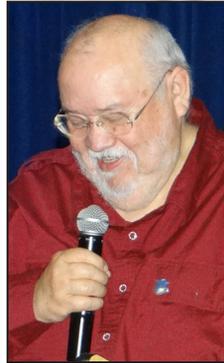
*Current Members:*

**Eden Arcoren, Callista Baker, Arvish Bhinder, Shallon Bordeaux, Latoya Boyd, Shaylyssa Charging Elk,  
Kathryn Clairmont, Kristin Cox, Raven Cournoyer, Jaclyn Crow Eagle, Kendra Elk Looks Back, Lahela Farmer,  
Harlan Guerue, Shiloh Gunhammer, Shyanna Hacker, Bryce Hammer, Kelsie Herman, Reeta Herman, J'Nathian His Law,  
King Horse Looking, Sadie LaPointe, Jarrett Leneau, Shanelle Lone Dog, Bryce'son Neal, Lainie Plank,  
Haylee Quick Bear, Teciah Spotted Tail, Daisy Villanueva, Brandon Whipple, Doris White Hat, Jacob Wike,  
Douglas Yellow Boy, Payton Yellow Boy, Dylan Young  
Advisors: Diane Linster & Katie Petry**

# TCSD Staff Recognition pix...



Our official greeters - Board Vice President Deb Boyd and President Sandra K. Dillon...



Our Emcee - The One and Only Doc B...



Meal blessing - Roger Allen...



Retirees...



Gabe Red Kettle - Flag Song, Honoring Songs...



35 Years...



25 Years...



45 Years!!...

Candice Reagle photos...



20 Years...

Certificate of Recognition  
Phyllis L. L...



# ...2019 Prom Night...



Jerry Matthews  
...Double M Studios photos...





# Hope...a 29-year educational friendship

Every year in May, two white vans roll into Mission, headed for Todd County Schools. This little caravan carries a group of people representing a distant college, whose representatives have been making the trip from Holland, Michigan the past 29 years.

Hope College Professor of Education Susan Cherup has led the delegation of students here all those years, who are eager to learn about the education and the culture on the Rosebud Reservation, while using their professional skills in a school setting.

The history behind these visits began when Susan's brother, Jim, made a hunting trip to South Dakota and ended up on the Rosebud. The stories he carried back to his sister about the culture and the beauty of the area piqued her interest, and she knew she needed to pursue an idea she had.

In 1990, Susan contacted Acting Todd County High School Superintendent Richard Tays about a potential May Term on the Rosebud. Her vision was for Hope students to use their education, nursing or social work skills while also learning about the culture of the Lakota Sioux.

Professor Cherup has received many distinguished honors and awards since she joined the Hope staff in 1976. She is especially devoted to her May Term on the Rosebud.

Todd County School Superintendent of Schools Richard Bordeaux welcomed the first Hope May Term students and every year thereafter until his retirement in 2007. Dr. Bordeaux recently reminisced about the visits.

"We always took them over to see my mother, Rose, in St. Francis," he said. "She loved to have the house full of kids."

A fellow professor accompanies Susan on the trips. Associate Professor Emeritus of Education Dave Zwart was with Susan and the students the first years. Dr. James Piers, Hope Professor of Sociology, began making the trips with Susan in 2006. Professor of Education Tony Donk has been the co-chaperone most recently.

Dave and Susan graduated from Hope College together. In later years, while working on his doctorate at the University of South Dakota, Dave met Dr. Richard Bordeaux, but did not make the connection until he came to the Rosebud for the first May Term. Dave said he realized very shortly that he was not there to "save the Indians" but to learn the

culture.

"As I think back, they (TC staff) were doing the best they could do," he said. "They were always open, welcoming our students, giving them a reason to teach. Deb Lucas ran a good program, and Richard was a good leader for us. We talked about what was happening in the schools from a Native American standpoint. We debated back and forth on whether spirituality fits in. You must love your culture. I appreciate that part, having students understand it."

"I always felt Todd County Schools were doing a good job," he continued. I was privileged to meet Middle School Principals France Blanchard and Peg Diekhoff."

He said he enjoyed traveling around the Reservation, and meeting Leland Little Dog, Doris Leader Charge, Ted Thin Elk, and visiting the St. Francis Museum and Church.

"I always appreciated my time on the Rosebud," he said.

Dr. Jim Piers graduated from Hope College in 1969, got his Master of Social Work degree at the University of Michigan, then came full circle, returning to Hope for 42 years in the Department of Sociology and Social Work.

"There are nothing but good feelings here at Hope," he said. "I never wanted to leave again."

He noted that the first things that struck him about Hope was the beauty of the campus, then the love! "And this is where we live and work!"

Jim met Susan in 1972 when he came to Hope. Immediately, he noticed her energy and general human interaction skills. She proved her worth early, he said, and was named Hope's Outstanding Professor of Education.

Piers was in charge of a student program in a Tokyo college, but jumped at the chance when he was asked if he would like to work with Susan on the Rosebud Reservation.

"Of course I said I would love to, but I really did not know much about the area or the culture," he said.

"That's exactly why you should go," she told me.

"She is such a great planner and organizer," he continued. "She asked me in the fall, and told me I should begin 'now' to go on the May Term trip."

"I was so excited on that first trip," he continued. "I felt amazingly naive about the Native American culture in general and Lakota culture specifically. I was just a little bit afraid."

Then, he smiled at me and said, "My encounter in Todd County Schools and the Rosebud Reservation felt similar to what one feels at Hope. The warmth with which I was welcomed was extraordinary. A great sense of honor prevailed. (There was caring and interest and I have to give Susan, Dave and the Rosebud credit). I was just an extension of Susan. I suddenly became a very strong advocate, even though I was still just at student of the culture."

"I believe those perceptions of the Lakota culture will be staying with our Hope students for life," he continued. "I want them to see both cultures as having value, without the changing of either one. Both have a common equal value and worth and reason to respect each other. I want the students to accept a culture instead of trying to destroy it."

"Looking back," he said, "I would like our students to understand the damage that was done in the past, and I want everyone to ask the question: This is what we have done, what can we do now?"

"My hope for this program is that more Hope faculty and students make it to the Reservation and Todd County as well as tribal folks come to Hope," he added. "It is important to get the leaders on board with true student exchange. What better time than high school?"

Jim has retired now, but his memories of the 12 trips to the Rosebud and Todd County Schools are something he will always cherish.

Tony Donk said he has known Susan "forever." He said listening and trying to learn about the four directions, the Creation Story, and the history of the Reservation made a huge impact on him. He had always been interested in Native American culture, and when she invited him to be on the May Term, he welcomed the opportunity.

He said he watched Susan just literally grabbing people to go and the next thing he knew, he was signing up for the trip. He told her he would be happy to "ride along on her coattails" on the May Term trips.

"That's kinda how she operates," he laughed. Makes you think it was all your idea."

She later told him he had signed up for life, he said.

Tony said his initial visit to Todd County was "spectacular." The Senior Honoring they attended, in which they participated in the dancing that was so spiritual, and he loved the handshakes, the beautiful beaded and ribbon dresses, looking at the four directions.

"It was so beautiful and so good and I was so thankful to be included in a part of that," he said.

"I try hard to just listen, not be the talker," he added. "Just listen - you learn so much!"

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Hope is a private college, founded in 1866. It has an undergraduate enrollment of 3,150. It lies near the eastern banks of Lake Michigan, and the beauty of the 120 acres of the campus is unequalled. The friendliness of students and staff makes a visitor feel immediately at home, with a sense of complete serenity, permeated with love. It is hard to leave.

I had the indescribable opportunity of visiting Hope's Campus last October. From the time I set foot off the plane in Grand Rapids, to the return trip three days later, I felt as if I had been in another world. Gone was all stress and worry of everyday life. Our hosts were more than gracious. It was an experience we will always cherish.

When I say, "We," I had the privilege of the company of (then) Exceptional Education Director Carol Galbraith (now our Superintendent of Schools) on the trip.

Professor Susan Cherup and her husband, Glen, welcomed us with open arms at the airport. The 30-minute ride to Hope was filled with discussions of the whirlwind of activities ahead of us.

After checking in our hotel, we were given a tour of the campus by Hope students, who had taken the May Term trip, and who obviously truly loved their school. Ally Buckley (majoring in Secondary Education), Taylor Dunn (Social Worker) and Riley Lentz (Elementary Education) were most gracious tour guides.

We sat down for a few minutes to talk about their experiences at Hope.

Hope is a great place, Ally said. Everyone you meet here greets you, there is a great

educational program, the best professors and teachers, and you do not just feel like a number.

Taylor agreed. "This is genuinely my new home," she said. "It is such a small, close-knit student body, with an aspect of maturity. It is easy to meet people."

She mentioned how secure the campus is. Large poles with big blue lights on the top of them are placed everywhere. A phone on the pole dials 911.

Riley said he knew immediately when he first toured the Hope campus that he was home. He said he really appreciated his May Term trip, because it not only increased his knowledge of the culture, but he also received class credits.

The subject of the benefits of higher education arose, and Riley said it is so important, because it opens up so many more opportunities.

"You take a class, then find new interests, and you learn so much about yourself you did not know," he said.

"I encourage students to pursue higher education," Taylor said. "It gives you a chance to find a job that really builds off of your talents."

"It teaches you a lot about yourself," Ally added. "College pushes your limits so much to go on, but when you look back, you see that you did that. And it not only results in making more money, but it is also rewarding knowing that you actually accomplished it."

Galbraith asked if anyone had spoken with them about the income difference in college degrees. She also noted that college is not for everyone, trade schools could be another option.

"You just need to be certain about that before you decide against college," she said.

Another Hope student, Hannah Michéau (a junior) was on a recent May Term trip to the Rosebud.

"I would love to go back, she said. "I feel like Rosebud is an entirely different world - different lifestyle, culture, environmental background, the way the kids are raised.

"I worked with the kids in the Achievement School," she said. "I had never met so many people in my life, who had so many challenges. And still, they came to school, some almost every day, still pursuing their education. Getting to work with them impressed me the most. I feel it is so important to intervene early to assure success in the

future."

Professor of Education Dr. Yooyeun Hwang came to Hope College in 1996. She made the 2006 May Term trip to the Rosebud.

She said she could not grasp the "reservation" concept when America was supposed to be such a free country.

"But it was such a beautiful place, the Badlands, it felt like I was on a different planet," she said. "The people were so nice and kind - very hospitable."

She said she loved it on the Rosebud, maybe it was the different layers of culture, but basically the little kids.

"They were so cute," she said. "They would ask me, 'You Chinese?'"

"This cooperation between Todd County and Hope is a wonderful concept," she said. "Susan has such energy and I am not sure anyone can continue in her footsteps with the program. Just shepherding 15 students that distance and length of time is a task in itself. But person by person, one by one, that is the only way a change can be made.

"It is going to take more of your students and staff coming here to Hope, and more of our students and staff going to Todd County. It is a small program now, but it will grow - bigger and bigger."

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Our time with Hope had come to an end, and we really did not want to leave. When we did, it was with a feeling of complete serenity, peace and love.

Very few words were spoken on the quiet homeward flight, as we contemplated the wonderful memories of a little college in Michigan.

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The 2019 Hope entourage arrived in Mission on May 7. After the hugs of welcome were exchanged with the weary travelers, they were treated to a traditional meal of buffalo soup, frybread and wojapi, prepared by members of the Todd County High School Culinary Arts Class.

Early the next morning, the 13 Hope students went to the various schools, where they were to assist with instruction of the classes.

Thirteen days later, after a short trip to the wonders of the Black Hills, including Mount Rushmore, the Badlands, and Crazy Horse Monument, they gathered for a final meeting with their Todd County hosts.

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Some of their thoughts:

*Kara - Every student has a story that needs to be taken into consideration every morning.*

*Riley - Each student needs something different from you each day.*

*Rachel - I have learned that sometimes kids need longer to do things and you just have to rework the schedule and figure it out from there.*

*Sarah - I learned to really appreciate and love the culture, and see how much it is incorporated into the school (Rosebud Elementary)*

*Nathan - If you want a student to learn, you have to get rid of what you thought you knew and get into how they need it to be done. Mend your path to meet them in the middle.*

*Gracie - I learned to check the biases I didn't know I had, and not make assumptions about people.*

*Lauren - Getting to know the students' stories helps you to help them.*

*Steve - The virtues of the Lakota are exemplified in Mission.*

*The Todd County Teachers with whom they worked were not anxious for their young assistants to leave.*

*Carol Galbraith said one of the students came in the second day and "you would think she had been employed here a whole year."*

*A teacher said her Hope student was "ready to fly and see what it was like."*

*"You can leave her here another week," she said. "It was a great experience."*

*Rosebud Teacher Brian Brown said his student was a wonderful addition to the room.*

*"The first day she knew all the students' names," he said. "The first two days she watched, then she took over teacher reading for me. One thing she said she can guarantee - Lakota children here are just as smart as anywhere else."*

*Superintendent Bordeaux said his*

*granddaughter, Georgia Grace, is in Mr. Brown's Class and she told him she was feeling badly because Ms. Sandi was leaving.*

*Galbraith thanked the teachers for opening their doors and welcoming the students. She urged the Hope students to stay in contact, stay in education, and come back Todd County to student teach.*

*"My student teaching consisted of being put in a hallway, correcting papers," she laughed.*

*"This is how they learn," Susan said. "Just take over and teach."*

*The next morning dawned as a chilly, foggy day, and I felt as though a piece of my heart was heading eastward toward a little college in Michigan. Those two white vans were carrying 15 of the most special, loving people on this planet....*

- Phyllis Littau  
TCSD Public Relations



Jim Mooy



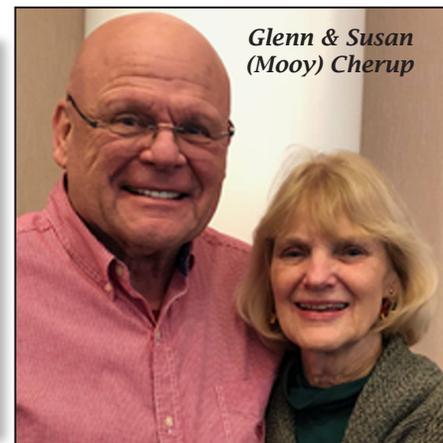
Dave Zwart



Jim Piers



Tony Donk



Glenn & Susan  
(Mooy) Cherup



Hannah



Fall - in Holland, Michigan...



Taylor  
Ally &  
Riley

We acknowledge Mr. Steve Floyd, whose friendship for Hope College has been instrumental in cementing the relationship between Hope and Todd County Schools.

Shortly after meeting Mr. Floyd for the first time, I penned my impression of him:

## Steve Floyd: Teacher, Philanthropist, Friend...



I met a man today. Not just any man, but a gentle, kind, man, obviously of quality. It only took a few moments to realize how easy the conversation was going to be with this man. He began at the beginning, the childhood, the education, and ultimately, his real purpose on this earth.

Steve Floyd was an only child, born in Milwaukee. His childhood ended when his father died. Steve was 13, and was raised by a rather strict mother and grandmother.

Of course, teaching was in his future, as both mom and grandma were teachers. His grandmother spoke not a word of English when she arrived from Czechoslovakia at age one, but became a teacher. Mother taught Kindergarten 43 years. Teaching had to be in his genes, Steve noted.

After five years at Marquette University, he graduated in 1984, with a degree in Sociology and Education. No teaching

jobs were available there at the time, but he got two job offers in one day from somewhere else - both on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

"So, I loaded up my car, had no idea where I was going, and headed west," he recalled. "And the next four years totally changed my focus on life."

Steve had led a sheltered life in Milwaukee, and his mother had instilled good values in him, "But the Pine Ridge awakened something in me," he said. "I had heard so much about prejudice, and this was in the mid-80's. I was a white person on the reservation, and definitely not accepted at first. They let you know you were an interloper. I learned how prejudice really feels."

He refers to those four years on the Pine Ridge as the "best and worst" experiences in his life. "It made me want to make changes for the people there. It changed me, and the longer I was there, the more I was accepted," he recalled. "The highest honor I have ever received was when I was invited to a student's birthday party. It made me feel like I was really a part of the community."

But soon his time on the reservation would end, as his mother kept pulling him back to Milwaukee. She was getting older and needed him. So he regrettably had to leave the area and the people he had grown to love.

Steve Floyd taught grades three to five for 30 years in Milwaukee. But he had to come back to the reservation, over and over again, to "get oxygen, and visit the teachers and the students." He was so grateful to eventually



These three young chefs from the TCHS Culinary Arts Class served our guests from Hope a traditional native meal when they arrived.

become more financially able to help the people there.

"I want to continue making that difference," he said. "I do all I can to make life more just and better here. Native Americans are so overlooked, especially by people who live far from the reservation and do not recognize the values they hold, especially their emphasis on taking care of family. No matter what, they continue to always maintain their pride and their history."

Through a friend, Steve was introduced to students and staff of Hope College in Holland, Michigan. There, he found many new friends and an educational institution whose core values closely match his own. He has immersed himself in assisting with projects to enhance the colleges' Mission Statement. This is how I found him - coming to Todd County Schools on the Rosebud Reservation with a contingent of Hope's ambassadors, just looking to see what he can do to make life better for someone.

Floyd is positive that education is the key to life changes. "I get it, but I don't know how to change it," he said. "Students can leave the reservations to further

their education, but sometimes, when they come back and try to use that education to make things more just, they are ostracized by their families. Changes are so hard, for all people.

"The inhabitants of this land need the respect they deserve," he continued. "I believe in fairness. Pine Ridge really made me who I am today, and it's all good. I just want to do what I can to help. My heart is in my head.

This I believe," he said. "There is a time to earn. There is a time to learn. There is a time to return. Now, I am returning.

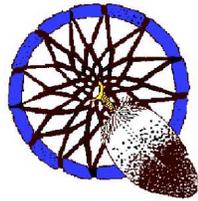
"When I put my head on the pillow at night, and I can say I did the best I could do today, that is all I can ask," he added. "I can look in the mirror."

- Phyllis Littau  
TCSD Public Relations

footnote:

The past two years, Steve Floyd has made it possible for the Todd County High School Volleyball Team members and their coaches to attend a Volleyball Camp at Hope.

On a somber note, Steve's mother entered the Spirit World earlier this year.



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# Dreamcatcher

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## A visit from Hope...

*May is a big deal , and really something to look forward to in the Todd County School District, considering all the concerts, field trips, honorings,wacipis and graduation each year. For the past 28 years, May has also brought a group of young, soon-to-be-teachers from Hope College in Holland, Michigan. The students have always been accompanied by Hope Professor Susan Cherup, who initially organized the annual trek. This year, she was accompanied by Professor Tony Dork, as well as Philanthropist Steve Floyd.*

*On pages 29-31 of this issue, please read more about this exceptional college of teacher preparation for future students. Our hand will again be extended in welcome to the Hope crew when they visit us in 2020.*