
“So I try to encourage young people to think about their identity in a much bigger way—as part of the Seven Fire Places [Oceti Sakowin], or as in individual identity, what language they speak or even their Tiospaye, their extended family. Now back in the day our Tiospayes were the most important part of our identity . . . We asked, “Who are your relatives?” The old ones today . . . they’ll tell you who their relatives are and indeed we are all related, we belong to one another.”

Jace DeCory, Instructor at Black Hills State University, Spearfish, South Dakota (from wolakotaproject.org)

Jace DeCory, Instructor at Black Hills State University in South Dakota, encourages students to think deeply about their identity, even when simply introducing themselves to another.