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## **Lt. Gov. Michels to emcee Native American Day Celebration at Cultural Heritage Center**

PIERRE, S.D. -- Lt. Gov. Matt Michels will serve as the master of ceremonies when the South Dakota State Historical Society celebrates the return of the Great Sioux Horse Effigy and Native American Day on Monday, Oct. 12, at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

Beginning at 2 p.m. CDT, several prominent speakers will comment on the importance of American Indian history to South Dakota and why the Sioux Horse Effigy serves as an important symbol and artifact from that history. In addition to Michels, speakers will include:

- Steve Emery, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations
- Kevin Gover, director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.
- Gaylord Torrence, Fred and Virginia Merrill Senior Curator of American Indian Art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City
- Francis Whitebird, member of South Dakota State Historical Society board of trustees

At the conclusion of the speakers' comments, Spiritual Leader Roy Stone of the Rosebud Sioux Reservation will lead attendees into the gallery for a special Cleansing Ceremony and Prayer with the newly displayed effigies including the Great Sioux Horse Effigy from South Dakota and horse memorials borrowed from the State Historical Society of North Dakota and the National Museum of the American Indian.

The events are part of an open house with free admission and refreshments from 1-4 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

The Great Sioux Horse Effigy Return Celebration will be held in several locations in Pierre beginning Saturday, Oct. 10, and Sunday Oct. 11, along with the special ceremony on Monday, Oct. 12. There is no fee to attend any of the programs or events (with the exception of a Sunday evening banquet), but donations will be accepted and appreciated. For information about the events, go to [www.history.sd.gov](http://www.history.sd.gov) or call (605) [773-3458](tel:773-3458).

The Great Sioux Horse Effigy will be on display in the primary gallery of the museum beginning Saturday, Oct. 10, at 9 a.m., along with two other horse memorials. The new display of the three effigies will be on display at the Cultural Heritage Center for two years.

**About the South Dakota State Historical Society**

*The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Education. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit [www.history.sd.gov](http://www.history.sd.gov) for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.*