

**FOR RELEASE:** Sept. 11, 2014

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### **International Peace Pole on Display at Cultural Heritage Center Courtesy of Mitchell High School**

PIERRE, S.D. – A peace pole developed by students in the art department at Mitchell High School will be on display in the lobby of the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, headquarters of the State Historical Society, from Sept. 12-Oct. 10.

Earlier this year, the Youth Art Peace Pole Project selected Marica Shannon and her students from Mitchell High School to represent South Dakota by designing and creating a special 7-foot tall Peace Pole. Peace Poles are now one of the most recognized symbols of peace worldwide with more than 240,000 across the planet. All Peace Poles have the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in different languages on each side. The languages on the South Dakota Youth Art Peace Pole are English, German, Spanish and Lakota.

“It is a tremendous honor for our students at Mitchell High School to participate in this project,” commented Shannon. “Our kids have enjoyed the experience and we are proud of our work.”

“We are delighted to be able to share this project with the citizens of South Dakota,” said Museum Director Jay Smith. “And we are especially thankful to Marica Shannon and her students for thinking of the Cultural Heritage Center for displaying this object representing peace across the planet.”

The peace pole is part of an international project that was started by artist and teacher Masahisa Goi in Japan after the bombing of Hiroshima inspired him to live his life to work towards a more peaceful planet. Goi was inspired to spread the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” and created the Peace Pole as a vehicle to help share that message with the world as a simple non-political and non-sectarian reminder. Today, there are roughly 240,000 Peace Poles planted in 180 countries around the world.

The Youth Art Peace Pole Project was started in 2011 at the World Peace Sanctuary in New York State when thirteen art teachers and their kids created Peace Poles that looked like no other Peace Pole on Earth. On The International Day of Peace on September 21st of 2014 the Youth Art Peace Pole for each State will be displayed in the State it was created in, and all 50 states are represented.

This very special, one-of-a-kind, Peace Pole will be on display during The International Day of Peace in September and then afterwards will remain on display at the Cultural Heritage Center through Oct. 10 before it returns to Mitchell High School as a simple and beautiful reminder of “May Peace Prevail on Earth.”

To see photos and read stories of this incredible Peace Pole and information about the others from around the country, please see the Youth Art Peace Pole Project website at [www.yappp.org](http://www.yappp.org).

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*The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. 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.*