

# Strategic Outlook 2013-2018

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The mission of Sinte Gleska University remains firm: a commitment to every tribal member seeking higher education, a commitment to the Oyate to strengthen its stance in the world so that *kini*—The People may live. We rededicate ourselves to the mission, acknowledging the important and challenging work of the past 40 years as a mere beginning, our accomplishments as mere glimpses of what the future and needs of the coming generations beckon of us. We affirm that we are called to *plan, design, implement and assess postsecondary programs and other educational resources unique and appropriate to Lakota people in order to facilitate individual development and tribal autonomy*. We embrace the Lakota virtues as our guiding principles: *Woksape*: Wisdom; *Woohitika*: Bravery; *Wowacintanka*: Fortitude; *Wacantognaka*: Generosity.

The five Critical Issues will guide all institutional planning. These are the issues that project into the future the important work to be continued or initiated by Sinte Gleska University in its role as an academic institution rooted in the needs, hopes, and dreams of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate.

## CRITICAL ISSUE 1: LAKOL WICO'UN

**GOAL 1:** Ensure that the Lakota Way of Life is paramount in all teachings, relationships, and undertakings.

**GOAL 2:** Lakota language, culture, history, and spirituality are core elements of all decision-making.

**GOAL 3:** Identify issues vital to preserving, maintaining and promoting use of the Lakota language.

## CRITICAL ISSUE 2: ACADEMIC ENHACEMENT

**GOAL 1:** Create a vibrant learning community that includes rigorous standards, a commitment to student engagement, and continually builds new opportunities for students' personal, career and professional achievement.

**GOAL 2:** Graduate confident and competent students able to take their place in the world as leaders and contributors.

### **CRITICAL ISSUE 3: INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

**GOAL 1:** Ensure that all members of the university community have equal access to safe structures, and build campus places that invite, welcome, and protect students, faculty, and staff.

**GOAL 2:** Prioritize the student experience with a unique and special program geared to each cohort from freshman through graduate, from part-time to full-time.

### **CRITICAL ISSUE 4: RESOURCES**

**GOAL 1:** Address debt reduction, particularly finding solutions to unpaid accounts and opportunities for increasing private and corporate donors.

**GOAL 2:** Collaborate with tribal, regional, and state agencies in areas of mutual benefit that can add facilities, technological tools, and equipment necessary for institutional development.

### **CRITICAL ISSUE 5: TRIBAL NATION BUILDING**

**GOAL 1:** Create networks and partnerships with tribal programs, using a solution-based approach for development and providing education on important tribal issues.

**GOAL 2:** Engage the *Oceti Sakowin* and be responsive to requests for assistance and collaboration.

**GOAL 3:** Determine the social and economic justice issues important to improving the daily lives of the Sicangu Oyate and ensure that academic and community outreach programs address them.