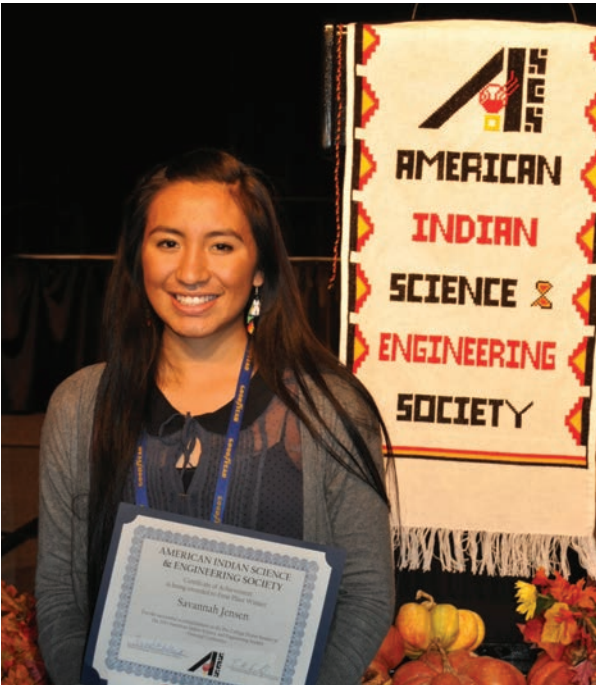


Savannah's Journey

DISCOVERING A LOVE FOR SCIENCE

Savannah Jensen '14 has been busy finishing her college applications to some of the nation's best universities. (Stanford tops her list!) No matter where her future studies take her, Savannah says they will be shaped by something she discovered at Red Cloud: her passion for science.



"I've always been excited about science because it connects with elements of my Lakota culture and identity. But when I was a sophomore I took chemistry and there were so many mechanisms and things happening that you can't see with the naked eye...I fell in love with that," she says.

Since her first day of chemistry class, Savannah has used many opportunities at Red Cloud to pursue her love for science. In 2010, Red Cloud received a generous grant from the Toyota USA Foundation to encourage students to pursue advanced science degrees and, ultimately, careers in the field. And that investment has taken Savannah on an extraordinary journey.

Through Red Cloud's afterschool science club, Savannah has attended national conferences of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) in Minnesota, Alaska and New Mexico. At this year's AISES conference and competition in Colorado, Savannah was awarded first place for research she conducted as an intern at the National Institutes of Health, looking at how optogenetics can help the brain heal after strokes and nerve damage.

"When they called my name for first place, on the inside I wanted to cry. It was really humbling to know that dreams can come true."

After college, Savannah plans to pursue a career in medicine. And in the future, she says she will use her love for science to support her people. "Whatever I do, I know I'll bring it back here to the reservation," she explains. "I think science is part of indigenous life. It's a way of problem solving; to help us find solutions to health problems [on the reservation]. And that's important for our people. I believe it will help move us forward."

Read more about Savannah at [www.redcloudschool.org/news](http://www.redcloudschool.org/news)

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Sharing the stories of Red Cloud Indian School [www.redcloudschool.org](http://www.redcloudschool.org) Spring 2014 Volume 5, Issue 3

It's 4:30 am—still hours before dawn—but Red Cloud 10th grader Grace Bush is already getting dressed for the school day. Winter is long on the Pine Ridge Reservation and the temperature outside hovers just below zero as Grace pulls out her heaviest coat. The house is dark and quiet, but she says she feels lucky she doesn't have to stand outside in the cold like some of her classmates. At 5:20 am, she spots the bright yellow school bus coming slowly down the icy road and waits to climbs aboard.

19 BRIGHT YELLOW BUSES,

600 Brighter Futures



Each morning it takes Grace more than two hours to get to Red Cloud. The heater on her bus sometimes isn't powerful enough to warm the frigid air and, on days like that, she brings a blanket and wraps herself in it. But Grace says the cold and early mornings are worth it to come to Red Cloud. Away from the fights and trouble that plagued her last school, now she can focus on her education.

One of Grace's classmates on the same bus route, Tad Bowman, feels exactly the same way. "If the bus broke down, or stopped coming, I wouldn't be able to make it to Red Cloud," he explains. "I put up with the early mornings and cold bus ride, because the education is top notch."

Grace and Tad's situation isn't unusual. Many of our students ride the bus across Pine Ridge for more than two hours a day to get to school. And without the buses, they wouldn't be able to come. Red Cloud's bus routes cover almost the entire 2.8 million acres of reservation land, an area larger than Delaware and Rhode Island combined. Added up, they drive more than 1000 miles every day to deliver our 600 Lakota students to their classrooms. Imagine traveling those long distances in some of the nation's most extreme weather, and you'll understand why providing safe, efficient transportation is one of Red Cloud's greatest challenges—and most critical priorities.

"Around the country, about half of all elementary and high school students rely on buses to get them to school. But on Pine Ridge, nearly all of our kids—close to 95%—need our buses in order to stay in school," says Ted Hamilton, superintendent.

"The realities are different here. Some of our families don't have the means to keep their cars running or to keep up with the cost of gas. So a Red Cloud education actually starts with getting our students here on the buses—ready to learn and grow in our classrooms."

Red Cloud

INDIAN SCHOOL

Hope. Alive.

100 Mission Drive, Pine Ridge, South Dakota 57770

[www.redcloudschool.org](http://www.redcloudschool.org)

605/867-1105 ext. 300

Red Cloud

INDIAN SCHOOL

Red Cloud Indian School

100 Mission Drive

Pine Ridge, South Dakota 57770-2100

dear fr. george,

Enclosed please find my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help Red Cloud continue to educate and provide for Lakota students on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_

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I would like more information on naming Red Cloud in my will or trust:\_\_\_\_\_

I've remembered Red Cloud in my will.\_\_\_\_\_

My company will match my gift! Name of company:\_\_\_\_\_

Have you made a donation but not received an acknowledgment? Let us know by calling 605/867.1105.\_\_\_\_\_

(cut here)

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Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

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Name as it appears on the credit card \_\_\_\_\_



“I think what’s been extraor-dinary is to watch what has happened in 26 years—the good things that have happened. At the very beginning there certainly wasn’t the same percentage of seniors that graduated that there are today. Now our seniors are going all over the country and studying anything that they really desire to do. Young people are now graduating from our high school, going on to college, and on to master’s degrees. It’s absolutely fabulous.”

Sr. Mary Jane (with her 8th grade students).

Over 58 years! That’s how long Sisters Mary Jane Hebert and Mar-garet Giroux of the Congregation of Notre Dame of Montreal have collectively served at Red Cloud, teaching students and supporting the community. Over the years they’ve seen the institution grow and thrive in ways they couldn’t have imagined. As they prepare to leave the reservation to be closer to members of their religious community, they share what has meant the most to them.

“When you come to Red Cloud, you don’t leave easily, espe-cially after 32 years, because this is a sacred place. I think most people who come here feel that. It’s not just a nice place—it’s a sacred place.”

Sr. Margaret

Hundreds of Masses, thousands of students and countless lessons later, two Sisters leave Red Cloud a better place

In Their Words



AROUND THE REZ  
RED CLOUD BRIEFS

Red Cloud Featured in Groundbreaking  
Report on Native American Education

*Education Week*, the nation's leading publication covering K-12 education, recently released a major report entitled "Education in Indian Country: Obstacles and Opportunity." This powerful collection of articles, videos and photography looks closely at the state of Native American education and the challenges facing American Indian students today. Red Cloud students, teachers and administrators are featured throughout the report—and reflect on the unique educational approach that allows Red Cloud students to succeed. See the full report at [www.edweek.org](http://www.edweek.org) or on our website at [www.redcloudschool.org/edweek](http://www.redcloudschool.org/edweek).

You're Invited! The Sisters of St. Francis  
Celebrate an Anniversary Jubilee

For 75 years, the Sisters of St. Francis have offered their strength and support to students, families and communities at Red Cloud and across the Pine Ridge Reservation. On June 28 at 2:00 pm, join us for a celebration Mass honoring their service and impact. The celebration will include a memorial and dinner in memory of Sr. Monica Witte, O.S.F., who served Red Cloud for over 25 years. For more information, contact Sr. Colleen Mahony at (402) 336-6013 or [colleen@franciscanway.org](mailto:colleen@franciscanway.org) or visit: [www.franciscanway.org](http://www.franciscanway.org).

Unprecedented Scholarships &  
Amazing Accomplishments!

Just after the New Year, Red Cloud received wonderful news: six of our seniors (pictured below) earned the prestigious Horatio Alger Scholarship—twice the number of any school in South Dakota and the most Red Cloud has ever had in a single year! The competitive scholarship supports deserving young people who have overcome challenges in their lives in order to pursue higher education. Carrie Beard '14, who plans to study chemical engineering at South Dakota School of Mines & Technology next year, screamed for joy when she got the news. "I knew it would really help send me to college. I had a lot of help from my teachers, who first told me I should apply. I'm so thankful for them."



dear friends,

I wish every single one of you could have been here to experience it. On a crisp, clear October evening last fall, the ancient sounds of traditional Lakota drumming came spilling out of Holy Rosary Church and across our campus on the Pine Ridge Reservation. That night we gathered at Mass to celebrate Red Cloud's 125th anniversary and it was as special as any prayer I have ever been a part of. The sweet smell of sage smoke, used for purification in Lakota ceremonies, filled the air. Hymns were sung almost entirely in Lakota and an honoring song was performed after Communion to recognize members of the Red Cloud family sitting in the front pew—descendants of the historic Chief Red Cloud himself. Presiding at that Mass was one of the greatest honors of my time at Red Cloud. The experience truly encapsulated what Red Cloud has become over the course of its 125-year history. Today, the education and programs we provide our students and families reflect our deep Jesuit roots. But they equally celebrate and honor Lakota culture and spirituality. There is a harmony at Red Cloud that is undeniable. Newcomers tend to recognize it right away. One new visitor—part of a team that came to Red Cloud recently to review and affirm our Jesuit and Ignatian identity—explained it better than I ever could:

“The grace that exists at Red Cloud is palpable in its people, its buildings and in the land. Never before have I been present in a Jesuit environment in which the Jesuit principle of ‘seeing God in all things’ was more apparent.”

By supporting Red Cloud, you bring light and love to the Pine Ridge Reservation every single day. And I hope you will continue to spread that love by sharing a will or legacy gift with us, using this language:

1. *I give to Red Cloud Indian School, Inc. \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate.*
2. *I give to Red Cloud Indian School, Inc. the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_.*
3. *I give, devise and bequeath to Red Cloud Indian School, Inc. all (or a percentage) of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate.”*

By including Red Cloud in your estate plans, you will become a member of the Red Cloud Legacy Society—or *Mahípiya Lúta Owidyawa Thiyóspaye*—and receive a pin as a token of our heartfelt appreciation. Our legal name is Red Cloud Indian School, Inc. and our Tax ID Number is 46-0275071. Red Cloud is a recognized tax-exempt non-profit, religious, educational institution. Because of friends and supporters like you from all across the country, we are creating transformative change on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Please help us continue that journey into the next 125 years. We can't do it without you.

With blessings for a wonderful spring,

*Fr. George Winzenburg SJ*

Fr. George Winzenburg, S.J., President

wóphila!

Among the Lakota people, gratitude is one of the seven basic virtues. Another is generosity. Red Cloud is humbly grateful for your generous prayers and gifts that provided:



**Future college graduates.** With spring just around the corner, this year's senior class is looking forward to graduation and taking the next step in their education. Because of your support, more than 95% of Red Cloud graduates go on to college or post-secondary training. And after, many of our students return to Pine Ridge to serve and support their community. *Wóphila!*

**Pastoral ministry.** Community members from across the reservation will come together this month to celebrate the wonder of the Easter season through our network of Catholic churches and community centers. You are there with them! *Wóphila!*

**Healthy meals.** Our students are able to focus on their studies because they are not focused on their stomachs. Your support helps us provide a complete breakfast, a healthy lunch and an after-school snack. *Wóphila!*

**Economic impact.** The Heritage Center adds over \$1 million into the local reservation economy by purchasing items from local artists and selling them through our internationally recognized gift shop. By supporting The Heritage Center's work, you allow us to foster and encourage Lakota artists. *Wóphila!*

An Art Show Like No Other

In the summer of 1969, a small art exhibition took place on Red Cloud's campus. Meant to showcase the creative skill of local Lakota artisans, the show was set up in a modest and informal gallery space. But in the years that followed, Brother C.M. Simon, S.J. (pictured below), The Heritage Center's founder, realized that he had something extraordinary on his hands—and set out to nourish it. Now, almost a half-century later, the Red Cloud Indian Art Show has grown into one of the largest and most unique Native art exhibitions in the country. The only show of its kind to be held on an Indian reservation, today it highlights the work not only of local, Lakota artists, but also of Native artists from tribes across North America. Over the years it has expanded beyond traditional Native crafts to include contemporary paintings, photography, sculpture and more. But according to The Center's Curator Mary Bordeaux (Oglala Lakota), the show's true purpose has remained the same as since its very first year. "The show was started to create opportunities for Native artists to exhibit in the Northern Plains, which is notoriously hard to access," explains Bordeaux. "We offer emerging Native artists—many from right here on the Pine Ridge Reservation—the opportunity to show their work in a gallery for the first time. And I'm proud that we've supported so many artists as they launched their professional careers in the arts."

**Young Artists Take Center Stage**

Oklahoma-based artist Hoka Skenadore (Oneida-Oglala Lakota-Luiseño-Chicano) took home last year's most coveted prize for *Frankie Sez Relax*, a vibrant portrait painted on a vinyl record (pictured above). Hoka is originally from New Mexico and comes from a long line of Native artists. As a child, he learned to make traditional Iroquois pottery with one grandmother and observed his mother, whose family is from the Pine Ridge Reservation, create handmade Lakota dolls. Now, at 32 years old, he lets those experiences guide his passion for the arts.



Hoka was still a teenager the first time he entered the Red Cloud Indian Art Show. He says that early opportunity and support from his community gave him the confidence to build his career. "My grandma is from Pine Ridge and we'd come to visit relatives and family members. She knew Brother Simon and some of my first recollections as a child are of seeing him and saying hello. So to have the ability to show my artwork to my people continues to be a real gift," says Hoka. "The Heritage Center has really supported the work of up-and-coming artists—and it's been incredible to have community support from where you come from...to have your people believe in what you do."

**A New Take on Native Art**

From that first show at Red Cloud, Hoka went on to become the third generation of his family to attend the prestigious Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe. He connected with a new generation of artists who are redefining the boundaries of Native American art. He explains there is a "new continuum of Native expression," pushing traditional expectations, but remaining true to Native identity. "The work I produce doesn't have that overt Native American imagery. But through my upbringing, there was always an emphasis on retaining culture. My family supported my wanderings in art, but I was to be mindful and remember where we came from," he shares. "That may not be easily seen in my work, but it's there."

As Native artists continue to redefine their craft, Bordeaux says The Heritage Center will support the creative spirit that drives them. "Our show is different because it doesn't focus or promote one set idea of what Native art really is. When you visit, you can take in the work of famed ledger artist Donald Montileaux, whose work reflects Lakota history and cultural experience. And on the same wall, you'll see a piece by Hoka, whose is inspired by street art, like murals and graffiti," she says. "Each piece is another interpretation of Native experience and perspective—and it opens our eyes in a new way every year."



46th Annual  
Red Cloud  
Indian  
Art Show  
JUNE 1 -  
AUGUST 10  
2014

Each year, you make it possible  
for The Heritage Center to support  
young Native artists like  
Hoka. This summer, join us at  
the Art Show and experience  
their work in person!

To learn more, contact The Heritage  
Center at 605/867-8257 or visit:  
[redcloudschool.org/theheritagecenter](http://redcloudschool.org/theheritagecenter)

(detach here, moisten glue strip and seal)

Wish the kids good luck!

Graduation is just around the corner, and this year's senior class has already submitted over 170 applications to colleges across the country. With plans to study science, engineering, art and business, they are well on their way to becoming tomorrow's leaders! Please share your messages of hope and encouragement with them here, and wish them good luck as they prepare to take the next step in their education.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

(cut here)

