

COLLOQUIUM

Spirit of the Black Hills

Jace DeCory

Lakota Elder
Black Hills State University

September 26, 2018

4:00 p.m. - Wilson Hall, One West

Mitakuyepi- my relatives. The Black Hills of South Dakota is known as He Sapa or Paha Sapa to my ancestors, my people, the Lakota. The Lakota and other Tribal Nations have had special ties to this area for thousands of years. For the Lakota, the Black Hills are the heart of everything that is, the center of our universe, where special sites remain vital to our existence. It is the responsibility of the Oceti Sakowin, the Seven Council Fires, to protect and preserve these sacred places where our Lakota ceremonies are held. We hold them with reverence, where we come to pray, not play. The Black Hills remind us to be respectful of Grandmother Earth and all that is. For indeed, we are all here for a purpose.

Mitakuye Oyasin – For all my relatives/We are all related.