The Building Bridges Conference began in 1997 as a dream of two clinical psychology graduate students who believed that to encourage Native American youth to persist in their education, there needed to be a bridge between their traditions and the traditions of higher education.

This year, the clinical psychology graduate program at the University of South Dakota is hosting the 22nd annual conference once again. On behalf of the program and the Elders, we welcome you all to come join us in Using Our Voices to participate in our communities to make meaningful changes. This year’s speakers are Serene Thin Elk and Micah Nickey.

Micah Nickey is a Sicangu Lakota and a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. He has over 17 years of addictions and vocational rehabilitation counseling experience as well as development of professional and para-professional training programs. He uses his life experiences and vast knowledge of Native American principles and incorporates them into the Western style of teaching. His personal work has helped many individuals find a strong sense of meaning and have a healthy identity. His work as Owner of Nickey Consulting, LLC. has given state and federal agencies as well as small business enterprises and Fortune 500 companies the tools to create inclusive, environments improve their service delivery and provide services in a culturally relevant manner.

Serene Thin Elk is from the Ihanktonwan Nakota and Sicangu Lakota Oyate in South Dakota and is a licensed professional counselor with experience in treating depression, anxiety, trauma, addiction and personality disorders. She has experience in culturally competent behavioral health practice and education. She is also a trained Expressive Arts Therapist and utilizes creativity as a pathway to self-reflection, transformation and healing for those that she works with. Her most important job is being a mother to her beautiful children.

April 5, 2019
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Muenster University Center Ballroom

This year’s presentation is sponsored by the USD Clinical Psychology Program and Psychology Department in College of Arts and Sciences and by the Center of Excellence in Minority Health and Health Disparities. If you are a person with a disability and need special accommodations to fully participate, please contact Disability Services at 605-677-6389 48 hours prior to the event.