



Chiesman Center for DEMOCRACY, INC.

May 24, 2016

Dear Friend,

The Chiesman Center for Democracy, along with our partners the SD Humanities Council, the Mary Chilton DAR Foundation, SD Municipal League, Associated School Boards of SD and the SD Association of County Commissioners, invite you to participate in an important roundtable discussion on June 23, 2016.

The South Dakota Summit on Civic Education and Engagement will take place on Thursday, June 23rd from 10:00am – 4:00pm at the Ramkota Conference Center in Pierre, SD.

Throughout our country discussions are taking place initiated by civic education organizations, media and other groups to determine if enough is being done to encourage active citizen participation not only in self-governance but also in the very fabric of their communities. Unfortunately, many citizens in South Dakota feel, for one reason or another, disenfranchised from the democratic process. This is evident in some communities when no candidates run for elected offices or when voter turnout is exceptionally low.

We would like you to join the dialogue regarding what is currently being done in South Dakota to promote and encourage civic learning as well as civic/community engagement and democratic participation. We hope by the end of our day we will create a set of recommendations that can be shared and acted upon by those organizations interested in moving both adults and young people toward a more educated, informed citizenry, excited about our democratic society.

If you are able to participate, please register by Friday, June 17th.

Space is limited to the first 100 participants. You can register the following ways:

Online: www.sdcivicsummit.eventbrite.com

Email us: rtimm@chiesman.org

Call: 605-341-4311

Lunch will be provided for all summit participants. In addition, travel stipends are available for those in need of assistance. Please contact our office if you or someone you know requires financial assistance to attend.

Thank you in advance for your support of this very important event. We look forward to seeing you on June 23rd in Pierre.

Sincerely,

Rob Timm, CFRE
President/CEO

Dedicated to the preservation of democracy

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South Dakota Summit on Civic Education and Engagement

Thursday, June 23, 2016
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Ramkota Conference
Center — Pierre

The Purpose of the Summit

To bring together citizens, civic leaders, educators, elected and appointed officials to discuss civic engagement and education for all people in all communities.

Summit participants will work on answering the following questions:

- How would you define civic engagement?
- Is civic engagement and education working in South Dakota?
- What resources and efforts are needed to get citizens to participate in the democratic process?
- What steps should be taken, and by whom, to implement or expand current civic education and citizen engagement initiatives?
- How can this translate into enhanced citizen involvement in public policy issues and participatory government?

Please Register by June 17, 2016 to:

Register on-line at:

www.sdcivicsummit.eventbrite.com

Or contact us at:

Chiesman Center for Democracy, Inc.

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To promote and support civic education and engagement.

The Summit is Sponsored by:



**South Dakota
Humanities Council**

With Additional Support from:

Associated School Boards
of South Dakota

South Dakota Association
of County Commissioners

South Dakota
Municipal League