

Wicubami: Honoring Alexis Nakota Sioux *Ish?awimin* through Kinship, Language, Spirit, and Research [Abstract]

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This essay is meant to serve as an honor song for the *Ish?awimin* (Elders) from the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, without whose blessings and teachings our learning and research would not have been possible, particularly Bella Alexis, Rosalie Alexis, Stanley Alexis, Angela Jones, Effie Kootenay, Helen Letendre, and Nancy and Paul Potts.

We describe their contributions to a community-based participatory research project on substance abuse prevention for the *doshgamin* (children) at the community school. The involvement of the *Ish?awimin* was grounded in the values and responsibilities they carry with them. Our purpose is to *wicubami*, to honor the *Ish?awimin* highly, to honor them, as in an honor song. We honor the purpose and vision embedded in the spirit, wisdom, and leadership they carry with them. We illustrate here how the teachings and blessings of the *Ish?awimin* affected the research experience. They deepened the meaning of the school-based substance abuse prevention program, culturally adapted by the *Ish?awimin* and delivered to the *doshgamin* who participated in this study.

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