

AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY
THE CENTER FOR WESTERN STUDIES
2001 S Summit Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57197

October 23, 2025

Kevin Kuchenbecker
City of Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission
108 Sherman Street
Deadwood, South Dakota 57732

RE: Funding support for the 58th Annual Dakota Conference, April 23-24, 2026

Dear Mr. Kuchenbecker,

Thank you for your gift of \$750 last year in support of our annual humanities and public affairs event, the Dakota Conference on the Northern Plains.

To complement last year's theme of "Settling and Resettling the Plains" in the broader context of commemorating America's 250th Anniversary, the theme for the April 2026 conference is "The Future Northern Plains: Opportunities and Challenges."

The CFP suggests some topics for potential presenters to consider:

<https://www.augie.edu/resources/center-western-studies/events-conferences/dakota-conference>

In the spirit of the conference theme, we even turned to AI to generate an image of a city on the plains circled by an autonomous tractor and vehicle with the new B-21 Stealth bomber at Ellsworth flying overhead.

A grant of \$750 would be used to match a gift from a private donor. As always, we are pleased to acknowledge the City of Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission in the conference program and CWS News. Thank you for your past support and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Harry Thompson

Harry F. Thompson, Ph.D.
Executive Director
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