



Held every April, the Dakota Conference examines issues of contemporary significance to the Northern Plains region in their historical and cultural contexts. Religion and spirituality, geography and identity, the impact of global conflict, Hispanic/Latino influence, and the 1973 Wounded Knee Occupation have been examined in recent years.

54th Annual Dakota Conference

Radio Comes to the Northern Plains: From Wireless to Wi-Fi (1922-2022)

The conference will be held April 28-29, 2022, in the CWS Fantle Building on the Augustana University campus.

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Conference Theme: The topic for the 2022 conference is "Radio Comes to the Northern Plains: From Wireless to Wi-Fi (1922-2022)."

For the 54th Dakota Conference, presentations about radio and other forms of electronic communication from the 1920s

Attendance at the two-day Dakota Conference, which celebrated its 50th year in 2018, runs well over 200, with as many as 80 presenters from more than a dozen states. All conference themes relate to the Northern Plains region.

Several noted historians have addressed the conference in recent years, including R. Douglas Hurt, Joseph Amato, Gary Clayton

to the present day are welcome, as we consider how wireless technology changed, and continues to impact, the lives of residents of the Northern Plains.

According to the South Dakota Broadcasters Association, radio began in South Dakota as early as 1912 in Eureka, but the flowering of licensed radio stations in the state, and throughout the Northern Plains, started in 1922. Stations on the campuses of the University of South Dakota in Vermillion (WEAJ, later KUSD) and the School of Mines in Rapid City (WCAT) began broadcasting that year. In Minnesota, the first radio broadcasts originated from the sixth floor of the Oak Grove Hotel in Minneapolis in 1922 (WLAG). In Montana, the first radio broadcasts emanated from KFBB in Great Falls in 1922 and from Montana State University (KUOM) in Bozeman in 1925.

Anderson, and Jon K. Lauck. But non-academic presenters are equally welcome.

Conference organizers always seek the participation of Native peoples. Marcella LeBeau, Russell Means, Dennis Banks, Charmaine White Face and Donald F. Montileaux have spoken recently.

Radio vaudeville and theater and music of every imaginable style—from jazz, blues, and rock 'n roll to opera, symphonic, and chamber—found the airwaves an effective medium. Churches and other religious organizations discovered they could meet the spiritual needs and/or fill their coffers from radio audiences.

Beginning in the 1960s, public radio became an alternative to commercial radio. Licensed to non-profit organizations and universities, public radio enjoys a loyal following among those seeking a blend of public affairs and the arts. One of the earliest is Minnesota Public Radio, begun on the campus of St. John's University.

Radio audiences, along with ad revenue, were in decline in the 1970s and 1980s. With the abolition of the Fairness Doctrine in 1987, an FCC policy requiring controversial viewpoints to be balanced by opposing opinions on air, and the institution of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, conservative-libertarian points of view began to dominate the airwaves. How have these changes in federal policy affected political discourse in the Great Plains?

Paper and session proposals on these and other topics related to the Dakotas, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana are welcome.

Conference Program: The [conference program](#) is available online.

Registration:

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- Through April 19, two-day registration is \$60 and one-day registration is \$40.

- After April 19, two-day registration is \$70 and one-day registration is \$50.
- CWS members receive conference registration discounts.
- Registration is free for full-time undergraduate and graduate students of any college or university and for Augustana University faculty and staff, courtesy of the Mellon Fund Committee.

Meals:

- Through April 19, Thursday lunch, Thursday dinner, and Friday lunch may be purchased individually (\$18) or as a complete meal package (\$50). Members receive a \$5 discount on the complete meal package.
- After April 19, please call 605.274.4007 for meal availability.
- Those with special dietary needs should contact dakotaconference@augie.edu.

Awards: Presenters are encouraged to submit their papers for cash award consideration in academic, non-academic, student, and women's history categories by **May 13**.

The Dakota Conference on the Northern Plains is a humanities-based public affairs program of the Center for Western Studies that explores topics specific to the region in their historical and cultural contexts. The Center's **Boe Forum on Public Affairs** considers national and global issues of concern to the people of the Northern Plains. The CWS Public Affairs Series publishes books examining regional issues.

The Dakota Conference is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



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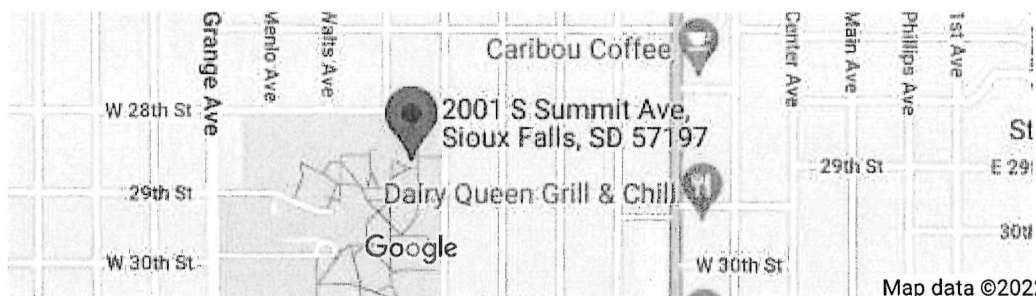


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