

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

November 2, 2022

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

RE: Funding support for the 56th Dakota Conference on "The Political Plains," April 25-26, 2024

Dear Mr. Kuchenbecker:

Thank you for your gift in 2022 in support of our annual history conference, the Dakota Conference on the Northern Plains, most recently on the topic "The Outlaw Plains."

2024 marks several historic political anniversaries, notably the bicentennial of the collapse of the two-party system caused by the failure of any candidate to win a majority in the 1824 presidential election, which threw the outcome into the House of Representatives.

In the Northern Plains today, single-party rule prevails, from Democratic Minnesota to Republican Wyoming. Over different periods of time, including the Progressive Era, the absence of a viable opposition party has led to factions within the party in power, often resulting in legislation not supported by the majority of citizens.

To remedy this, citizens in some states turn to ballot initiatives. At the geographical center of the Northern Plains, South Dakota, whose state motto is "Under God, the People Rule," was the first state in the nation to adopt initiatives and referendums by popular vote. Several initiated measures and amendments have successfully challenged legislative decisions. Some have later been overturned by the legislature.

Tribal governments can also face special challenges from single-party legislatures. In northeastern South Dakota, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate has indicated that it intends to ask the state legislature in 2024 to recognize the Lake Traverse Reservation, the first step in petitioning Congress to reestablish the treaty boundaries erased by the US Supreme Court in 1975.

Significantly, 2024 is the centennial of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, granting citizenship to all Native Americans born in the United States, though some states continue to maintain barriers to the voting rights of Indigenous peoples.

2024 also marks the centennial of the year the South Dakota State Legislature recognized the failure of the Progressive Rural Credit program. With insufficient revenue to repay farm loans, the state enacted a gross receipts income tax on businesses, then on individuals, and ultimately a state sales tax in 1935.

A grant of \$1,200, to match a grant from the Augustana Mellon Fund Committee, would be very much appreciated. We would, of course, acknowledge your gift in the conference program and our newsletter as the sponsor of the Trail Breakfast. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Harry F. Thompson, Ph.D.
Executive Director

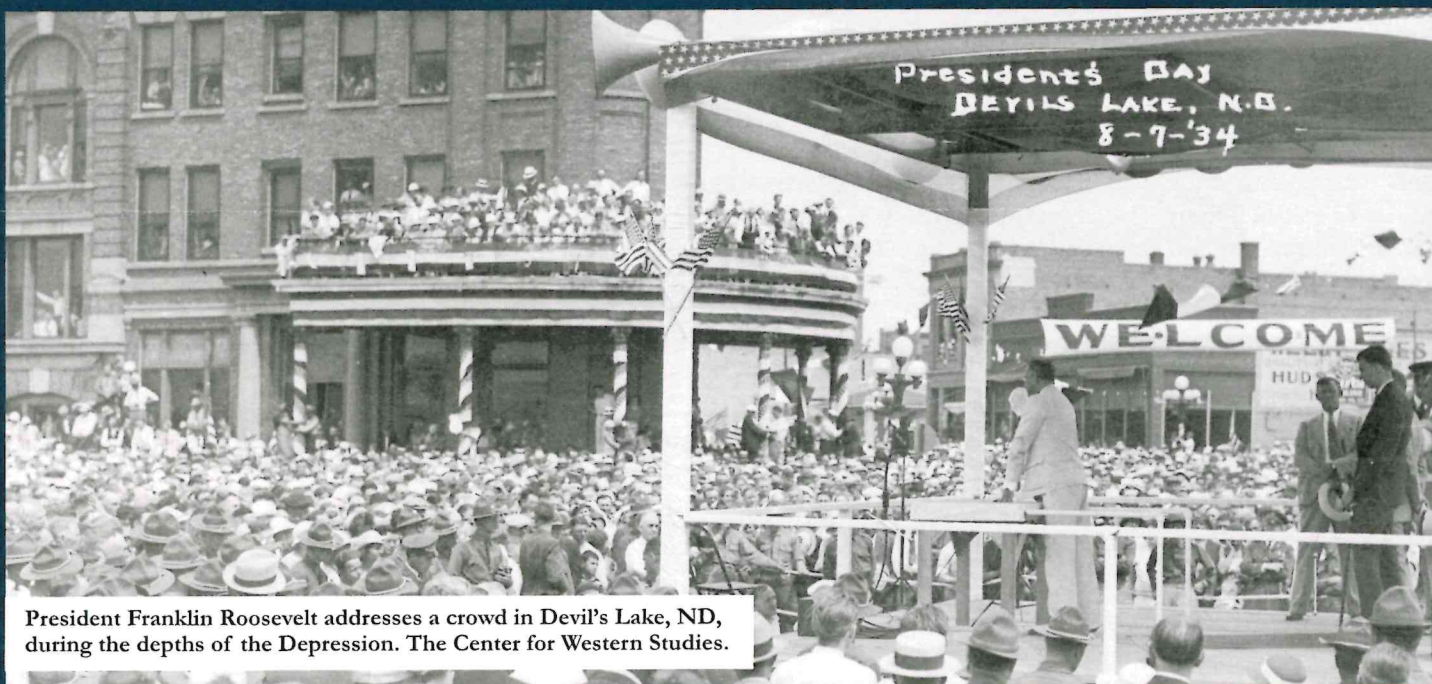
56th Annual

DAKOTA CONFERENCE ON THE NORTHERN PLAINS

A Humanities and Public Affairs Program of the Center for Western Studies
Augustana University, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

April 25-26, 2024 (Thursday & Friday)

THE POLITICAL PLAINS



President Franklin Roosevelt addresses a crowd in Devil's Lake, ND, during the depths of the Depression. The Center for Western Studies.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



THE CENTER
for
WESTERN STUDIES



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

The Center for Western Studies seeks to improve the quality of social and cultural life in the Northern Plains . . . achieve a better understanding of the region, its heritage, and its resources . . . and stimulate interest in the solution to regional problems.

The Center for Western Studies | Augustana University | 2001 S. Summit Ave. | Sioux Falls, SD 57197
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THE POLITICAL PLAINS

PROPOSALS DUE FEBRUARY 23, 2024

The 56th Annual Dakota Conference, April 25-26, 2024, invites presentations on issues relating to "The Political Plains" and on other topics about the history and cultures of South Dakota and the Northern Plains.

2024 will be a consequential political year, punctuated by a wide range of "hot-button" issues both nationally and regionally, from parental rights and religious freedom to women's health and voting restrictions.

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The Center for Western Studies is charged by its constitution "to serve as a study and research center concerned with **problems** of South Dakota and the contiguous states," which it does through its research programs and public events. The Center is a financial underwriter of the "Politics and Public Policy" Beat on South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Presentation and session PROPOSALS (NOT PAPERS) are due **February 23, 2024**. Please use the online submission form at augie.edu/dakotaconference or email proposal title, brief description, presenter bio sketch (no c.v.'s), and full contact information to dakotaconference@augie.edu. **Limit of one presentation per individual.**

PRESENTER REGISTRATION:

The presenter registration fee is \$25. All presenters must register by **April 12, 2024**, regardless of whether their fee has been waived. The registration fee is waived for undergraduate and graduate students of any university and for Augustana faculty and staff, courtesy of Augustana University's Mellon Fund Committee.

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION:

Before April 12: two-days: \$40, one-day: \$30, single-session: \$20.

After April 12: two-days: \$50, one-day: \$40, single-session: \$30.

Meal Information: Available in March

Lodging: augie.edu/lodging

BOOK AUTHORS:

Authors of recent books about the Northern Plains are welcome to distribute order forms during their session, place flyers on the literature table located near registration, and privately sign copies of their book at any time during the conference.

AWARDS:

Presenters are encouraged to submit their papers for cash award consideration in academic, non-academic, student, and women's history categories by **May 17, 2024**.

APRIL 25-26, 2024

For further information about the conference, please call the CWS Information Desk or email dakotaconference@augie.edu