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**HUNKPATI INVESTMENTS TO HOST BUSINESS IDEA GENERATION WORKSHOP IN FORT THOMPSON**

**FORT THOMPSON, SD** - Hunkpati Investments will host a free workshop designed to help South Dakota residents who are considering starting a small business and want to develop ideas for a product or service to offer.

The Business Idea Generation (BIG) workshop will help participants:

* Generate business ideas that align with personal values and desired lifestyle
* Explore small business financing options
* Understand credit and how to improve one’s credit score

The workshop will be taught by Indian Dispute Resolution Services (IDRS, Inc.) through their small business program, The Acorn Project. Funding to host the workshop is provided by IDRS Inc. through grant funds they received from the U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Native American Affairs.

Mark Thompson, IDRS Director stated, “We are really excited to host the BIG workshop for the first time in South Dakota. There are plenty of workshops which teach you how to start and operate a business but none that helps rural entrepreneurs answer the most fundamental question, ‘What kind of business should I start?’ We created this workshop to help aspiring entrepreneurs answer that very question through the business idea generation process.”

Please note, the dates announced previously have changed. The new dates are Thursday September 14th 1:00 to 4:00 and 5:00 to 8:00 and Friday September 15th from 1:00 to 4:00. The workshop will be held at the Native Telecom building in Fort Thompson. The workshop is free and open to the public. To register go to: nativebiz.org/workshops. If you need assistance please contact Elaine Kennedy at (605) 245-2148.

Hunkpati is a community development financial institution supporting the financial stability of individuals, families, and businesses on the Crow Creek Reservation through education, access to capital, and entrepreneurial development. The IDRS Acorn Project partners with tribes to provide training and services to tribal members who want to start or expand their small business. To learn more about Hunkpati Investments visit Hunkpati.org and the Acorn Project, at Nativebiz.org.

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