Who Are We?
The Celebrate Dakota! MERG (Mayo Employee resource Group) is made-up of Mayo Clinic Employees of Native American Heritage and Non-Native Allies.

Above all, we consider ourselves as goodwill ambassadors dedicated to providing a welcoming environment for employees and patients of Dakota and other Native American heritages at Mayo Clinic Rochester.

A Note on Native American Patients: Chaplain Services, Visitations & Ceremonies

Mayo’s Chaplin Services can put patients & their families in touch with a faith based visitation of their choice. They can be reached at 507-266-7275 on the Methodist campus and 507-255-5780 for the St. Marys Campus.

For patients & their families with a desire to have a traditional Native American Ceremony, Mayo Clinic Rochester has smudging facilities. A ceremonial pipe is also available. Contact Chaplain Services for more information.

Celebrate Dakota! provides training support to Chaplain Services in their desire to provide culturally appropriate care of Native American patients.

Mitakuye Owasin
We Are All Related

The Dakota people have a long association with South Eastern Minnesota: including the area of Rochester. They preceded Europeans on the land in this area until the U.S. Dakota War of 1862. In the aftermath of the war the Dakota people were banned from the state of Minnesota.

There is a lot of healing to be done from descendants on both sides of the war and those of us in the Celebrate Dakota! MERG are dedicated to facilitating that as best we can. We whole heartedly celebrate the Dakota people and their culture while promoting peace & healing in the region.

Contact: Celebrate Dakota! MERG
Email: MERGstCelebrateDakota@mayo.edu

Generously supported by:
The Mayo Clinic Office of Diversity & Inclusion.

Can we help?
Let us know you are here!

Contact Celebrate Dakota! MERG
Email: MERGstCelebrateDakota@mayo.edu
Celebrate Dakota! : a Mayo Employee Resource Group

For Mayo Employees

Check Us Out Online!
Mayo Clinic employees and students can visit our webpage on the Mayo intranet at: http://intranet.mayo.edu/charlie/diversity-dakota-rst/

Join US at One of Our Monthly Meetings!
Celebrate Dakota! members meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month to plan events, have fun sharing life stories and learning more about Native American culture together. Our program efforts include events at Mayo Clinic and the larger Rochester Community.

For time and location of our meetings email us at: MERGrstCelebrateDakota@mayo.edu

What are our goals?

1. To serve as Mayo Clinic ambassadors to provide a welcoming environment for employees and patients of Dakota and other Native American heritages.

2. To leverage internal groups and resources to positively influence the patient experience at Mayo Clinic and to provide opportunities for employee engagement in community partnerships and outreach.

3. To embrace and reclaim the Minnesota Dakota history, Dakota language, perspective, and culture in a positive, educational environment that emphasizes mutual respect and appreciation of cultural expressions for all Mayo Clinic employees, visitors and patients.

4. To serve as a trusted resource on institutional efforts by sharing insight and expertise, cultural experiences and perspectives, including indigenous ways of knowing and healing options in patient-centered practice and to assist those who belong, identify with, or are interested in the Minnesota Dakota culture.

5. To engage employees of Dakota and other Native American heritages to utilize and take advantage of professional and personal development offerings and leadership and mentoring opportunities.

6. To build cross-cultural awareness and understanding of the Dakota and other Native American heritages and traditions through supporting cultural education and learning opportunities with internal and community partnerships and networks.

7. To help eliminate health disparities and become a national leader in the science and promotion of health equity, we will model and educate through publications, communications/lectures, and presentations that values and perspectives are time, place, and culture dependent, as is the history and the present relationship between Mayo Clinic and Dakota and other Native American populations.