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# Sturgis Journal

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## Grant funding now available

Schools, governments can apply for Michigan Native heritage funding

**Janis Reeser**  
Battle Creek Enquirer  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Grant funding is now available to support education and cultural awareness projects across Michigan through the Native American Heritage Fund's latest application cycle.

Applications for the 2026 grants are open to public and private K-12 schools, colleges, universities and local government units statewide, according to a community announcement. The funding is intended to support initiatives that build understanding of Native American history, culture and contributions while encouraging stronger relationships between Native and non-Native communities.

The Native American Heritage Fund, or NAHF, said that it is continuing efforts to increase Native visibility and promote long-term collaboration across the state.

"We're proud to kick off the 2026 grant cycle for the Native American Heritage Fund," NAHF Board Chairperson Ariel Boonstra, who also serves as Tribal Council Vice Chairperson for the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP), said in the announcement. "Michigan is home to 12 federally recognized tribes, each with a unique culture, history and government. It is our responsibility to honor that diversity by supporting education and fostering greater inclusion across the state. The success of past grant recipients has been inspiring, and we're excited to build on that momentum in the year ahead."

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Dancers celebrated the heritage over two days at the Pow Wow.  
DON REID/COLDWATER REPORTER

## Guskiewicz is staying: 'We love this university'

**Adrienne Roberts**  
Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan State University President Kevin Guskiewicz will remain at the university after reversing his decision to leave for Clemson University, ending weeks of uncertainty over the school's leadership following his announcement in May that he planned to depart.

Guskiewicz announced the decision in a July 6 online message to the Spartan community.

"After much thought, countless conversations and careful consideration, I have decided to remain at Michigan State University and continue serving as your president," Guskiewicz said.

"As Amy and I reflected on the possibility of leaving, we kept returning to one simple truth: we love this university," he said. "This place has become home to our family. The people, the mission and the opportunity to make a lasting difference here mean more to us than we can adequately express."

Clemson University's Board of Trustees unanimously approved appointing Guskiewicz as Clemson's 16th president at a virtual board meeting on May 27.

When Guskiewicz announced he was leaving MSU, he cited board dysfunction among the reasons for his departure.

Less than two weeks before he said he was leaving, the MSU Board of Trustees approved major changes to its code of conduct, which limited what trustees can say and do and established penalties including censure and potential removal from office for violations, according to reporting from the Lansing State Journal.

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## What do you get when a car executive meets a viral streamer? A World Cup anthem

**Liam Rappleye**  
Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Behind one of the most popular songs in the world right now is an uber-popular, 21-year-old influencer named Darren Watkins Jr., better known as "iShowSpeed." His song, "World Cup (Champions)," has been booming from speakers in arenas across North America as the region hosts the ongoing FIFA World Cup.

But his song wouldn't be there without an unlikely collaborator: An automotive CEO.

Olivier Francois, the CEO of Fiat and Stellantis' chief advertising executive, is a credited songwriter of "World Cup (Champions)" — an unlikely honor for an automotive CEO and advertising executive.

Francois is a huge music fan, and his passion bleeds into his work as an advertiser. He has aptly soundtracked some of the Chrysler-parent company's most iconic advertisements, placing legends such as Bob Dylan or Eminem behind the wheels of Chrysler cars. When not managing Fiat or the advertising campaigns for any of the 14 brands in the Stellantis portfolio, Francois is likely listening to music, he said. In fact, during prior interviews with the Detroit Free Press, Francois has paused the conversation to compare playlists with the reporter.

In an interview about a Jeep advertising campaign, Francois diverted the conversation once again to discuss an entirely separate topic: His musical collaboration with one of the most popular social media influencers alive.

Francois is a songwriter on a global

World Cup hit, something no other automotive executive can claim. Here is how the CEO of Fiat and a key player in Stellantis' corporate operations came to work with one of the most popular influencers in the world.

### Wait, who is iShowSpeed?

Francois learned about iShowSpeed through the youth. If you have never heard of Darren Watkins Jr., a survey of the nearest middle school classroom will quickly reveal who "Speed," as he's called, is.

Francois learned of Watkins from his children and his own YouTube algorithm.

Francois, a powerful figure in the global automotive and advertising in-

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