Four Corners AISES Professional Chapter Announces National Science Foundation (NSF) and the NYC Regional Innovation Node (NYCRIN) acceptance of Four Corners AISES Members Project Proposal for a 2019 Culturally Relevant Economic Development (CRED) Pilot Cohort

Gallup, New Mexico — The Four Corners AISES Professional Chapter announces that several of its members have collaborated to bring a twist to project development on the Navajo Nation. The NSF I-Corps and NSF SBIR/STTR in conjunction with the NYCRIN are serving Native American entrepreneurs to go beyond the bounds of traditional instruction to engage with industry, customers, and competitors to translate a Navajo project into research innovations and problem-
focus area into products and processes that benefit the Navajo society and the community of Tohatchi, New Mexico.

NSF and NYCRIN CRED Pilot Cohort accepted Four Corners AISES members Sam Woods and Stanford Lake Tohatchi Geo-Ecopark Project: Four Corners AISES connecting professionals to collaborate on Navajo Projects was accepted on July 3, 2019. The 2019 CRED Pilot Cohort is designed to give Native American entrepreneurs training and a modest grant funding to selected STEM projects for customer discover, market research for products and essentially teaching the essentials of a Business Model Canvas.

“We’re very appreciative for all the acceptance of the project by NSF and NYCRIN and were looking forward to successfully completing the program that will enable us to apply for additional funding for the Tohatchi Project, said Stanford Lake, Technical Lead of the Pilot Cohort Project.

“In the past weeks, we’ve been working with the Tohatchi community to develop a commercialization plan that incorporates various innovative technologies that will allow the Tohatchi community to sustain its own food-energy-water resources. The Tohatchi Project will be the first of its kind, a hybridization of technologies that solves a community’s problems by developing several products that are good for consumers and the environment, said Sam Woods, Entrepreneurial Lead of the Pilot Cohort Project.

The Four Corners AISES serves to cultivate a network of resources that strives for excellence and to be invaluable resource for the Navajo communities. Within Four Corners AISES, professional members collaborate to grown and support Native STEM education and initiatives.

About Four Corners AISES

Four Corners AISES was founded in 2018 and is a regional, nonprofit organization focused on empowering and inspiring Native American students, professionals and communities by promoting
Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiatives and programs in the Four Corners region.

**About AISES**

AISES was founded in 1977 and is a national, nonprofit organization focused on substantially increasing the representation of American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, First Nations and other indigenous peoples of North America in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math studies and careers.

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