WINDOW ROCK — The Four Corners AISES Professional Chapter, a newly formed professional chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) for the Four Corners region, recently elected officers and announced a professional Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics (STEM) talk program. Four Corners AISES Professional Chapter Announces Officers and STEM Talk Program

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Four Corners AISES selected Sam Woods, a consultant, as President, Joni Tallbull, a physicist with the Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Department in Shiprock, as Vice-President, Michelle Henry, administrative services officer with Navajo Division of Natural Resources, as Secretary and Janika Fowler, cost participant analyst with Salt River Project, as Treasurer.
The Four Corners AISES Professional Chapter consists of various STEM professionals from Arizona Public Service Company, Bisti Fuels, Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands, Navajo Agricultural Products Industry, Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources, Navajo Transitional Energy Company, Raytheon, Salt River Project, Terraform Development and other regional businesses. In all, the Four Corners AISES Chapter has 60 plus members who worked diligently and collectively to focus on empowering and inspiring Native American students, professionals, and communities by promoting STEM initiatives and programs in the Four Corners region.

“Four Corners AISES is about cultivating a sustainable network of resources that strives for excellence in our communities, schools and businesses,” said Sam Woods, President of the Four Corners AISES Professional Chapter.

Professional Program Impact

The Four Corners AISES Chapter outlined its goals, which include 1) Increase, sustain, engage and promote membership, 2) To conduct educational outreach, 3) To seek and establish funding and sponsorship, and 4) To promote professional development and partnerships. “Four Corners AISES is up and running and we welcome STEM professionals to join our new and exciting Chapter,” said Gerilyn Tsosie, Senior Human Resources Specialist with Bisti Fuels and Chair of the chapter’s Membership Committee.

“Although the professional chapter is starting up, our aim centers around leadership, mentorship, outreach and to be an invaluable resource,” said Steve Yazzie, Engineering Manager at Navajo Generating Station and Chair of the chapter’s Professional Development & Partnership Committee. “Our professional program will support early, mid to senior executive professionals in the STEM fields through professional development, networking, mentoring, advancing careers and support students in STEM.”

Four Corners AISES also will host a series of STEM Talks at regional schools and colleges where students can hear STEM initiatives from professionals. “Our STEM talks will cover a wide range of topics that foster and incorporate STEM with culture into today’s workforce,” said Michelle Henry, Secretary of the Four Corners AISES Professional Chapter.

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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