AISES 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 (STEM) studies and careers.
WHY STEM MATTERS

**STEM is where the jobs are**

STEM employment is expected to grow 17% between 2008 and 2018, far faster than the 10% growth projected for overall employment.

**STEM workers earn higher salaries**

The average wage for all STEM occupations is $85,570, nearly double the average for all occupations ($47,230).

**The U.S. is not producing enough STEM workers**

60% of the new jobs that will open in the 21st century will require skills possessed by only 20 percent of the current workforce.

The U.S. may be short as many as three million high-skilled workers by 2018.

Worldwide, the United States ranks 17th in the number of science degrees it awards.

**The U.S. is losing its competitive edge**

The U.S. is ranked sixth among 40 countries and regions, based on 16 indicators of innovation and competitiveness.

The prestigious World Economic Forum ranks the U.S. as No. 48 in quality of math and science education.
Four Strategies for American Indian STEM Workforce Development
Strategy #1: Build Awareness and Increase Retention in K-12 STEM: Start the pathway by providing Native K-12 Students, parents, and educators exposure to quality curriculum, programs, and opportunities to interest and engage them STEM.

Strategy #2: Increase Access to and Success in STEM Higher Education: Continue the pathway through higher education by providing financial and academic support and opportunities to Native college students to increase the numbers of successful Native STEM majors.

#3: Provide Leadership and Promote Change to Improve Professional Opportunities in STEM: Support the pathway to keep Natives in STEM careers through support of professional Native STEM network and career development resources.

#4: Identify and Leverage Strategic Partnerships and Conduct Research in STEM Issues Specific to Native Americans: Illuminate the pathway by identifying the challenges and successes in Native STEM Workforce Development through research, data collection, and partnerships with other key STEM stakeholders.
AISES ENERGY CHALLENGE

- Five-year $500k agreement with Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Energy and Mineral Development

- Native high school students

- Model is similar to science fair but limited to projects that address energy needs or issues within students’ communities

- Also provides National Conference and Leadership Summit travel and registration scholarships for students

- Last year winners traveled to Washington, DC to present at the Department of Interior / Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs