

Section II: Board of Director Nominee Information

***Full Name (Last, First)**

Jacobs, Alicia

***Brief (200 words or less) biography of nominee that will be included in the Ballot mailed or emailed to each General Member. Include information related to affiliation with AISES and what the nominee will bring to the Board of Directors.**

I am an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation, who joined AISES as a non-traditional student in the fall of 2013. I have remained active with the AISES organization once I earned a B.S. of Sociology degree from Western Carolina University with a concentration in Native American Health. Currently, I am the Special Initiatives Director of the Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program at the Cherokee Preservation Foundation. Working with undergraduate students I am passionate about building self-reliance in our youth in order to build stronger communities. Starting graduate school this August to obtain a Master's Degree in Public Administration because I understand the importance of continued learning, and with this knowledge, I will continue to serve the EBCI in a capacity that will move the tribe forward. Earning a Master's Degree will allow me to continue serving enrolled members in a capacity that exceeds society's expectations while setting the example for my family. The business and non-profit skills I bring to the AISES organization has been developed over the past twenty years of serving communities in a capacity that has provided me with a strong work ethic, integrity, individual character, and the utmost level of professionalism.

Please Answer the Following Questions

- 1. Why would you like to serve on the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Board of Directors? (150 words or less)**

Serving the AISES Organization will provide me with the opportunity to give back and serve others across Indian Country. As an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation from Tahlequah, Oklahoma I am passionate about serving my people because my tribe has provided me with great opportunity. I have gained a sense of responsibility from the education my tribe and the Cherokee Preservation Foundation has afforded me and it is customary to share my knowledge and these gifts. As I continue to work with the EBCI community I have been provided the opportunity to collaborate with national tribal organizations and other federally recognized tribes. This has provided me many questions regarding how I can improve the work that I am doing. It would be an honor to serve on a national level and learn as much as I can to improve the quality of life for our enrolled members.

2. What is your past experience/association with the AISES organization? (150 words or less)

Past experience with AISES includes attendance at national annual conferences, leadership summits, and met with AISES staff during these conferences. I had the opportunity to assist in identifying students to apply for the Region 7 positions. I also signed up with my daughter to volunteer at the annual conference hosted in Orlando sitting in on sessions to assist the presenters and worked the merchandise booth. Prior to being a member personally I helped the students in the Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program attend the annual conferences by supporting AISES efforts to grow our students in STEM.

The AISES Board of Directors has determined that there are key skill sets needed to fulfill AISES' strategic goals. The questions below specifically address the needed skills, knowledge and experience.

3. Please elaborate on your fundraising and major gifts cultivation experience. (150 words or less)

During my term as a board member for one of the first programs in North Carolina to address the problems of domestic violence and sexual assault, REACH of Jackson County, I was the secretary. Our fund raising efforts included collaboration with students at Western Carolina University to do clothing drives, socials and smaller events that would bring awareness to the domestic abuse in our region as well as funding. On a larger scale we hosted an annual gala at the Sapphire Valley Country Club that included a silent auction, dinner, dancing, and a band. Then of course there were several grants that supplied REACH with funds to operate.

4. Given the strategic goal of increasing value to all members, what skills and resources can you provide toward the success of this strategic initiative? List experience with program development, target populations and outcomes. (150 words or less)

It was November 2009 that I was hired by the Cherokee Preservation Foundation to coordinate the Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program. I came into this position and took over a program that lacked a solid foundation of policies, assessment tools, and limited structure. Over the years I developed tools needed to assess the leadership programming, working with the core leadership programs that are funded by the Foundation, we collectively have created solid initiatives that are strongly impacting the EBCI community. It is our goal to provide this community with opportunity for life-long leadership learning. The success of these programs are evident by the level of community involvement and participation we are seeing. The rate of students who are seeking higher education, leadership opportunities and career advancement is continuing to grow.

5. **Elaborate on your prior experience serving on non-profit Boards. Specify your understanding of the associated fiduciary responsibilities required of Board members. (150 words or less)**

It was September 2007, as a successful business owner in the community, I was approached to serve on the REACH of Jackson County Board of Directors as the Secretary. This is the one of the first non-profits to serve Western North Carolina's domestic violence and sexual assault victims. I gladly accepted the honor to serve the victims in my community but was completely blindsided as my first meeting occurred the morning after one of our clients was gunned down in our shelter. Needless to say, I jumped in this role full force learning as much as I could about our fiduciary responsibilities especially since we were facing a lawsuit. This was a major setback for the non-profit and the services we provided as a safe shelter. This board experience provided me with the skills and mindset to write into our programming a fiduciary responsibility policy.

6. **Have you visited the AISES website to view the AISES Board of Directors Roles, Responsibilities, Agreement, and Member Requirements at the following?**

<http://www.aises.org/about/board>

AISES Code of Conduct document at the following?

<http://www.aises.org/about/board>

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Section III: Two (2) Endorsements of Nominee (Required)

Endorsement #1

*Full Name (Last, First) Monteith Ph. D, Carmaleta	*Phone	*Email
*Endorsement Date July 13, 2016	*Endorsement Method, explain <i>(in person, by phone, by email, by postal mail, other)</i> email	

Statement of Endorsement (Optional) *(this will most likely be copied email text from the person making the endorsement to the person submitting this nomination form)* **(150 words or less)**

I take great pleasure in endorsing Alicia for your consideration in her joining the AISES Board of Directors. My experience in working with Alicia confirms my opinion that she has brought her skills in being able to direct a successful program in helping develop leadership skills in young college students. She is passionate and committed to serving these young people and developing them as future leaders of the tribe.

Alicia's roles as a supervisor, coordinator, and director, as well as experience on a Board, have prepared her to be a very effective Board member.

I especially am impressed with Alicia's love of learning and her desire to continue her education to better serve the tribe. She is entering a graduate program after successfully completing an undergraduate degree as a non-traditional student. She has been a role model for the students in her program as well as for her own children.

Additional Endorsements (Optional)

Endorsement #2

*Full Name (Last, First) Duff, Andrew Conseen	*Phone	*Email
*Endorsement Date July 16, 2016	*Endorsement Method, explain <i>(in person, by phone, by email, by postal mail, other)</i> email	

Statement of Endorsement (Optional) *(this will most likely be copied email text from the person making the endorsement to the person submitting this nomination form)* **(150 words or less)**

I have watched Alicia Jacobs work with our students from the Eastern Band of Cherokee, mentoring and chaperoning them to the AISES National Conference. She provides encouragement, enrichment and support which are key to any students' success. She herself is a Cherokee Woman who know what it takes to get the work done and will be an asset to the organization, the Board of Directors and a good mentor for our AISES students. Her experiences with program management, fundraising and leadership is what we need for AISES and she is a conduit to our tribes and with other Native youth organizations. I stand in support for this nomination and her desire to serve the AISES family.