

Section II: Board of Director Nominee Information

*Full Name (Last, First)

Peterson, Tracy

Fax

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***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.**

Mr. Peterson is a citizen of the Diné Nation, of the Zuni Clan of the Edgewater People Clan, born for the Bitter Water People Clan. Dividing his undergraduate study between the University of Iowa and the University of New Mexico, Tracy earned both his baccalaureate and master degrees from the University of Iowa. Currently, he is the Director of Diversity Programs and K-12 Outreach in the College of Engineering at the University of Iowa. He is responsible for coordinating K-12 outreach programs for campus and area communities to enhance college readiness and to encourage students to consider careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. He also coordinates pre-engineering camps for K-12 students, with a particular focus on underrepresented groups, in hopes of increasing their participation and success in engineering. In addition, he provides leadership and support that promotes diversity that benefits all students through programs, services, and developmental initiatives that strengthens and fosters inclusion. Tracy continually works on developing best practices for the retention and success of underrepresented students in Higher Education. He is committed to empowering students in achieving academic success by enhancing their academic, professional, cultural, and personal experiences.

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)

I am interested in supporting the mission of AISES. In my professional experience in higher education, being reduced to an asterisk because the numbers of American Indians in higher education programs are insignificant is my motivating factor to change these statistics. I want to assist in establishing a paradigm shift in how we develop best practices and provide support for our students in the STEM fields. I strongly believe that serving my community or other Native communities allows me to become a part of that reciprocal progression of giving back through providing support and coordinating the leadership, competency, and advocacy for many of Native youth, scholars, and professionals who chose AISES to begin their life journeys. For me, AISES provided that stimulus in the eighth grade, opening my eyes to STEM and provided me life-long friends and a network I can bring with me in my work.

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

As a fledgling 8th grader, my math teacher encouraged me to apply for the AISES College Enrichment Program hosted at the University of Iowa. I received my acceptance letter from the program on embossed university letterhead. There was something magical about that gold foil embossing that glimmered in my mind. AISES was the catalyst that exposed me to other students who were like me and showed us the different possibilities we could attain through hard work and diligence. AISES gave me the opportunity to attend another summer program the following year which led to more summer opportunities during my 11th and 12th grade summers. AISES supported me through my undergraduate years with scholarships, professional development and leadership opportunities where I served as regional representative. As a professional member, I continue to work closely advising students and encouraging them to seek their gold foil moment as they pursue their undergraduate degrees.

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)

In my current position as Director of Diversity Programs and K-12 Outreach, finding resources to support on-going programs and developing innovative ways to further support our students is a goal in our office. Securing funding opportunities and working closely with our faculty has been great experience that is continuing to evolve. Gathering data (assessment and evaluation) and staying on top of reporting responsibilities is the key to maintaining positive relationship with grantors. I've been able to secure numerous funding opportunities that supports students in emergency types of situations; provide STEM programming for K-12 youth; funding for summer internships for 15 undergraduate students; and six collaboration agreements with area towns to provide STEM programming in a summer academy. I worked closely with members of a non-profit I am affiliated with to secure funding that allowed us to hire an executive director for a 2 year period and further develop the organization.

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)

AISES in many ways has provided me unconditional support throughout my collegiate and professional experience. I would have to say that my networking and communication skills allowed me to develop many relationships throughout my involvement with AISES. Being able to connect with other individuals and communicating the mission of AISES is a rewarding and important duty as a board member. Having the task of integrating a faculty member into the lives of Native students was done through weekly discussions over a meal, thus creating Faculty Fellow Dinners. Or, working with a group of Financial Aid counselors on finding the best way to get Native high school seniors to fill out the FAFSA seemed like an impossible feat, but knowing the needs of those we are helping and clarifying the goals of the program proved to be successful. Assessment and evaluation are skills that I continually work to improve.

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)

My prior experience serving on a non-profit board has been rewarding. I served on a community non-profit that worked primarily with city underserved youth, university alumni board, and on a city human rights commission board. In all these experiences, we oversaw the development of needed afterschool programming, sought ideas from alumni to increase representation, and listened to issues around diversity and inclusion. Currently, I serve on a board that is focused on Native Youth issues in a state-wide initiative involving eleven tribal nations. As a board member, our fundamental role is to oversee the implementation of the organization's mission. This includes exercising our fiduciary duty to ensure that the organization's financial resources are effectively managed and sufficient to assure the organization's long-term financial viability. We must always act for the good of the organization, and exercise reasonable care in all decision making, without placing the organization under unnecessary risk.

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)**
Bulltail, Grace

***Endorsement Date**
06-10-17

***Endorsement Method, explain** (in person, by phone, by email, by postal mail, other) **By phone and by 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)

Tracy has devoted his professional career to promoting the advancement of American Indian students in higher education. He is a strong role model for Native students, particularly young Native men, and provides support to the students in any way that he can. Tracy brings a wealth of experience and knowledge of student support programming to every professional endeavor he takes on. Tracy is a great networker and he maintains many close relationships with representatives of organizations promoting diversity outreach. On a personal note, Tracy has the character that he would be the first person to offer help to anyone in need. He would be a truly resourceful addition to the AISES board of directors. He has shown his commitment to the AISES organization as a past student member and as a chapter advisor. I whole hearted endorse Tracy as a candidate for the AISES board of directors.

Endorsement #2

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

***Endorsement Date**
06-10-17

***Endorsement Method, explain** (in person, by phone, by email, by postal mail, other) **By phone and by 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)

Dear Nominations Committee for the AISES Board of Directors,

It is with great confidence that I endorse Mr. Tracy Peterson's nomination to the AISES Board of Directors. I came to know Mr. Peterson in 2013 during my time as a GIS Masters degree student at the University of Iowa. At that time, the U of Iowa had a small and growing Native American student community. Mr. Peterson brought people together to reinvigorate the Native community at the U of Iowa. I observed him as a champion for Native students and community, knowing how to approach and engage people. Furthermore, his experience with many different tribal nations makes him a valuable asset in connecting with others. In his role as the Director of Diversity Programs and K-12 Outreach, Mr. Peterson has knowledge of many different types of academic programs available to underrepresented students. Yet, more than the knowledge of programs, he understands the how and why (appreciating the monetary aspect) such programs are created. I believe this to be an important tool concerning non-profit minority organizations. As an AISES member myself, I understand the mission and believe that Mr. Peterson has the expertise and spirit to fulfill such mission on the Board of Directors.

Sincerely,
Jessica Rodriguez, M.A. University of Iowa 2015.
Cartographer, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Region

Additional Endorsements (Optional)

Endorsement #3

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

***Endorsement Date**
06-10-17

***Endorsement Method, explain** (in person, by phone, by email, by postal mail, other) **By phone and by 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)

I am writing this letter in support of Tracy Peterson's nomination to the American Science & Engineering Society Board of Directors. I have been associated with Tracy for almost thirty years, first in a student-teacher relationship and currently as a colleague in academia. In the early 1990's AISES sponsored a summer science enrichment program for high school Native American students, of which my role was a lead teacher at the University of Iowa where I instructed Life Science to incoming high school sophomores of which one of the students was a young, intelligent and energetic young man, Tracy Peterson. The goals of the program included getting more of the underrepresented Native Americans to pursue college-degrees with a focus in science, and to present the students opportunities to attend the sponsoring Universities, in this case the University of Iowa. Tracy presents a success story in itself, as he chose to attend the University of Iowa after high school graduation and serves as an advocate for the Native American student issues and is a positive role model promoting higher education and encouraging our youth to pursue professional careers. He also has continued participation with AISES attending the annual conferences, continued participation in AIHEC conferences, and remains actively involved in Iowa First Nations summer program sponsored by the University of Iowa. Tracy will commit himself to represent the people and speak out for Native causes that reflect the preservation of a green cultural environment. He possesses many unique qualities that he can bring to the table that adhere to the high standards and integrity presented by AISES. His membership on the board would indeed add to his accomplishments and his desire to be a successful contributor to education throughout the whole Native American community.

Endorsement #4

***Full Name (Last, First)**
Dollar, Franklin, Dr.

***Endorsement Date**
06-10-17

***Endorsement Method, explain** (in person, by phone, by email, by postal mail, other) **By phone and by 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)

Tracy Peterson is an embodiment of the "giving back" philosophy which AISES represents, and is a clear model for students new and old. His nearly 30 year tenure in AISES is extensive, participating in AISES summer programs in high school, founding the Iowa AISES chapter, and being the regional representative for both regions 3 and 5. He has served in advising roles for several AISES college chapters, including University of Minnesota, Morris which won chapter of the year. He combines excellence with impacts to the broader American Indian community, overseeing K-12 outreach and STEM programming while also coordinating the Iowa First Nations summer camp, making clear impact at the University of Iowa. His deep connections to the community as well as his extensive role in higher education make him well suited to be on the board of directors for AISES, and I'm confident he will accomplish much in that role.