



AMERICAN INDIAN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING SOCIETY (AISES)
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TO: Marcellus Proctor, Chair, AISES Government Relations Council (GRC)
FROM: Sarah EchoHawk, CEO, AISES
CC: AISES Board of Directors; AISES National Staff
DATE: April 6, 2015
RE: AISES Regional Model

Beginning in November of 2014, with the appointment of Rick Stephens as the Chair of the AISES Board of Directors, AISES embarked on strengthening its regional system of administration. The regional system is not new to AISES but it has been acknowledged that it is need of critical revitalization in order to operate effectively. The purpose of the regional system to strengthen the reach of the national organization by empowering each region to support AISES by conducting business on behalf of the national office.

Currently, there are seven regions across the county each representing a number of states and within each of those states. Within the states represented within a region, there are high school affiliates, college chapters, professional chapters as well as individual student and professional members who are not affiliated with a chapter. Each region has one designated student representative. To date, that has been the extent of the formal structure. As a result, some regions are stronger than other simply because the professional and/or college chapters in each of those regions have taken the initiative to be more actively involved in AISES business.

For example, in region five, the NorthStar Professional Chapter located in Minneapolis has applied for and received several grants to support not only their local chapter activities but projects that reach into other areas within that region. Another example is the Phoenix Professional Chapter in region three. Each year the chapter conducts a number of activities including a large golf tournament to raise support to fund scholarships for students. Both of these chapters also conduct their own outreach to the students and college chapters within their regions and have the strongest regional conferences as a result.

And while these are examples of what can be done in a region, they are unfortunately the exception. However, they do demonstrate some of what is possible and serve as proof that regions can be strong when they have strong leadership. And, because these two regions are currently our strongest regions, we have selected both Phoenix and Minneapolis for the 2015 and 2016 national conference locations respectively.

In revitalizing the regions, AISES has identified the current deficiencies within the current model:

1. While there is one designated student representative for each region, there is not a corresponding regional representative from the board of directors, the elder's council, professional chapters or high school affiliates.
2. There is not a centralized mechanism that represents each region so there is no formal direct line of communication between the regions and the national organization.
3. There is no mechanism for professionals and students who are not associated with a high school, college or professional chapter to "plug-in" regionally.
4. There are no formal models to share with high school, college or professional chapters as to operate a successful chapter. AISES simply provides a bylaws, reporting requirements and other forms of logistical support for election of officers, regional conferences and national conferences.

To begin to address these deficiencies and revitalize the regions, AISES is in process of instituting the following:

1. Identifying a regional representative for each region from the board of directors, the elder's council, professional chapters and high school affiliates.
2. Forming regional councils made up of the representatives. Structure and responsibilities will need to be determined and formalized.
3. Conduct monthly meetings (and annual meetings at the national conference) with the AISES national office to outline regional priorities.
4. Include regional reports from designated board representatives at each bi-monthly meeting of the board of directors.
5. Identify a means for individual student and professional members who are not affiliated with a high school, college or professional chapter to "plug-into" a chapter within their region or possibly create online chapters for those member who are not able to easily access a chapter.
6. Identify corporate, government and other partners who want to connect with activities in different regions.
7. Provide a listing of regional contacts and regional priorities via the AISES national website to provide greater transparency to all of AISES constituencies.
8. Provide more opportunities for regions to network and present at the annual leadership summit and national conference.

To date, AISES has almost completed #1 and is currently working on constructing a timeline for the remaining items which will be shared as soon as it is completed. The target date for completion is June of 2015.

ATTACHMENT: Graphic – AISES Regional Model