AISES
REGIONAL CONFERENCES
2022
Portland, OR

Region 1
April 15th-17th
High school students, college students, and professionals are invited to attend!

AISES
4263 Montgomery Blvd NE, Suite 200 | Albuquerque, NM 87109
(505) 765-1052 | www.aises.org

For More Information Visit
www.aises.org/news/events/regional-conferences
Welcome to Portland!  

Preliminary Daily Program  

Getting from the Airport to the Conference  

Friday Activities  

Breakout Sessions  
- Breakout Time 1: Saturday, 10:00 AM-10:50 AM  
- Breakout Time 2: Saturday, 11:00 AM-11:50 AM  
- Breakout Time 3: Saturday, 1:00 PM-1:50 PM  
- Breakout Time 4: Saturday, 4:00 PM-4:50 PM  

Saturday Tours, 2:00 - 3:50 PM  

Keynote Speaker, Olivia Mathison  

Organizing Committee Members  

Local Logistics, Venues, and Hotel  

PSU Covid Policy  

AISES Region 1 Conference Registration  

Photography and Videography  

PSU Guest Wifi  

Event Maps  

Safe Camp and Code of Conduct  

Dick French Memorial Scholarship  

PSU Resident (In-State) Tuition for Tribal Members  

Sponsors and Supporters
Welcome to Portland!

Portland State has had the pleasure of hosting many AISES Region 1 Conferences over the years but this year is special. After two long years of Covid restrictions and remote work, it is a joy to welcome the AISES Community back to Portland.

The science and engineering areas that AISES covers have played critical roles in helping us emerge from these difficult times.

- The health scientists that have helped give us vaccines and treatments that have saved millions of lives worldwide.
- The industrial engineers helping with the supply and distribution of vaccines around the world.
- The electrical engineers, computer scientists, and network specialists that created tools and software for so many people to work and learn remotely.

The registration has already far exceeded what we had hoped for when we first started planning this conference just two months ago.

It has been about 30 years since I attended my first AISES conference as an undergraduate student at the University of Minnesota. Since then, I’ve seen AISES grow tremendously, always helping to strengthen the representation of the indigenous peoples in the STEM fields.

The opportunities for support to help advance in STEM have grown since I was a student. For example, at the conference you will hear about the many scholarships from AISES, AIGC, and others along with internship and job opportunities. Furthermore, Oregon has some novel and new support for tribally enrolled students.

I hope that each of you makes a personal connection at the conference with someone that inspires you, or perhaps that you inspire, to fulfill STEM aspirations.

I would like to personally thank Lisa Paz and Stacy Thacker from AISES National as well as the AISES Sponsors that made this event possible.

On behalf of the entire organizing committee and the Portland Community, we welcome you to the 2022 AISES Regional Conference. If you have any questions or problems, feel free to reach out to us during the conference. In fact, I’ll offer to meet with any conference attendees interested in AISES or PSU by going to timanderson.youcanbook.me to schedule a time to talk in person or by Zoom.

Have a wonderful AISES 2022 Region 1 Conference!

Tim Anderson, PhD.
Chair, Engineering and Technology Management Department
Portland State University
AISES Sequoyah Fellow
Enrolled Member, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
### Preliminary Daily Program

#### Friday, April 15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:00-10:00 PM</td>
<td>UPlace</td>
<td>Welcome Dinner &amp; Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00-7:30 PM</td>
<td>Multnomah Falls Rm.</td>
<td>Buffet Dinner (included in registration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00-10:00 PM</td>
<td>Multnomah Falls Rm.</td>
<td>Games and socializing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00-9:30 PM</td>
<td>Elowah Fall Rm.</td>
<td>Movie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Saturday, April 16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:45-8:45 AM</td>
<td>UPlace</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45-9:00 AM</td>
<td>Walk to NASCC</td>
<td>Drum, Blessing, Land Acknowledgment, Formal Welcome, Code of Conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00-9:30 AM</td>
<td>110-Main Gathering</td>
<td>Getting Your Hands Dirty Building the Big Stuff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30-9:50 AM</td>
<td>110-Main Gathering</td>
<td>Pathways to Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:50 AM</td>
<td>110-Main Gathering</td>
<td>Visioning the Center for Tribal Nations and Waterfront Education Park at the OMSI District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00-11:50 AM</td>
<td>110-Main Gathering</td>
<td>Scholarships &amp; Student Supports from the American Indian College Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noon-1:00 PM</td>
<td>110-Main Gathering</td>
<td>College Chapter Success and Regional Chapter Caucus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00-1:50 PM</td>
<td>110-Main Gathering</td>
<td>Panel: Creating a Productive Native Employee Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00-3:50 PM</td>
<td>Leave from NASCC</td>
<td>Tours (Signup at Registration Desk)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00-4:50 PM</td>
<td>UPlace</td>
<td>We R Native: Health, Education, Research and Workforce Pathways for Natives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00-4:50 PM</td>
<td>PSU Campus Engineering Tour</td>
<td>Led by Judy Bluehorse Skelton and Tim Anderson and MCECS Student Ambassadors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00-5:30 PM</td>
<td>110-Main Gathering</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker: Olivia Mathison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30-7:00 PM</td>
<td>110-Main Gathering</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Sunday, April 17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:30 AM</td>
<td>OMSI-Theory</td>
<td>Refreshments and Socializing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30-11:30 AM</td>
<td>OMSI-Theory</td>
<td>Journey from the Rez to a PhD (Brook Thompson)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30-noon</td>
<td>OMSI-Planetarium</td>
<td>Planetarium Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noon-1:00 PM</td>
<td>OMSI-Theory</td>
<td>Lunch and Closing Discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15-2:15 PM</td>
<td>OMSI's daVinci Exhibit</td>
<td>Group entrance to OMSI's daVinci Exhibit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15 onwards</td>
<td>OMSI Exhibit Space</td>
<td>Explore OMSI exhibits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Getting from the Airport to the Conference

For those flying to the conference, you can rent a car or use a rideshare system. It may take a few minutes more but you can also use Portland’s Max light rail system to the conference for only $2.50 each way. Here is a link with more details.

Friday Activities

As you arrive in town, join us for dinner at University Place Hotel. We will have two adjacent rooms, one for socializing and one for a couple of movies in the theme of AISES.

In the Multnomah Falls room we will have round tables and for socializing and games along with the food. Please join us for a friendly and casual way to get started with the conference. Whether you are reconnecting with old friends or meeting new friends, this will be an opportunity to get started.

On the other hand, we also know that this may be the first in-person event for many people and perhaps a lower key start might be a helpful way to get eased into the conference. The Elowah Falls Room will be used for videos and movies that are STEM and Native-oriented to get people in the mood for the conference.
Breakout Sessions

Breakout Time 1: Saturday, 10:00 AM-10:50 AM

IC: Getting Your Hands Dirty Building the Big Stuff
Speakers: Herb Fricke, Colonel Michael Helton, Craig Johnson, and Mike Turaski
Location: Room 110-Main Gathering
Tracks: Pre-College/College/Professionals; Engineering

Description: People sometimes think of STEM as about just high technology but in this session you will hear about engineering projects that are big and affect people every day. This session has two speakers working together. Herb Fricke, Sequoyah AISES Fellow, will talk about his experience with construction projects and running largest native construction company in the country. Colonel Michael Helton leads the Portland District of the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Presentation 1.C.1: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers owns and operates dams that generate 24% of the nation's hydropower, provide flood risk management, navigation, water supply, recreation and other benefits. But did you know that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is involved in fish restoration? That's right, these dams, built generations ago that provide all these great benefits, also had a side effect of acting as a barrier for fish migration. For several decades we have been developing different operating protocols, and designing and constructing fish passage solutions, but there is still more to do. These solutions are not easy to develop, they require time and most importantly talent. In order to continue to make progress on this important mission and many other missions, we need talented individuals with diverse backgrounds. Please join us to hear more about career possibilities the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has to offer.

Presentation 1.C.2: Experiences as a Native

Speaker(s) Bio:
Herb Fricke, PE is a civil/environmental engineer with over 30 years of experience in the consulting engineering field. He is an enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation). He is President of Akana, a multi-discipline, full-service architecture/engineering based in Portland, OR. Akana provides planning, design, and construction management services for infrastructure, transportation, site development, and building projects. He has particular experience in managing IDIQ-type contracts for federal, state, and local agencies, and has considerable experience in planning and design for development projects for numerous tribes throughout the western states. He is also on the board of the Oregon Native American Chamber and the City of Portland’s Community Equity and Inclusion Committee. A Sequoyah member of AISES, he has always been involved with STEM issues where he currently sits on the State of Oregon’s STEM Investment Council.

Colonel Michael D. Helton assumed duties as the Commander and District Engineer of Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on July 21, 2020. He oversees a workforce of 1,500 federal employees serving residents of Oregon and southwestern Washington. COL Helton received his U.S. Army commission in 1998 from the United States Military Academy. He holds a Master of Science in Engineering Management from Missouri S&T and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. COL Helton is married to his wife of 22 years, Michelle Helton, of Pearland, Texas. They have two sons, Jacob (20) and Seth (11).

Craig Johnson is the Tribal Liaison for the Portland District. He has served that role since 2018 moving from Arizona where he worked as the Tribal Relations Specialist for the US Forest Service. Craig has worked with tribes across the nation and has a Master of Arts degree in Applied Archaeology and has served as lead archaeologist for over 12 years before being a full-time tribal liaison. Craig is originally from the east coast where most of his family resides. Currently, he lives in the Portland area with his wife of 25 years, and his son, daughter, and granddaughter. A tribal elder once told Craig to live in the land and he will learn more than this college degree taught him. Craig lived in the desert for a year and has continued to learn about traditional knowledge.

Mike Turaski serves as the Chief of Programs Management; his team coordinates budget development and implementation for the full range of Civil Works programs in Portland District. Mike has a BS in Geology from the University of Oregon and
Masters of Science degrees in Physical Geography and Watershed Management from the University of Wisconsin. He and his wife live in Portland, OR and enjoy backpacking and river rafting.

1C: Pathways to Science
Speaker: Isabel LaCourse, Katie McDonald, Jessica Rojas, Felicia Teba - Metro
Location: Room 170-Multnomah Falls Classroom
Tracks: Pre-College/College; Science (Environmental, Biological and Related Studies)

Description: Do you know what your dream job is - how does this connect to your plans for college and your area(s) of study? This session is intended for pre-college and college students interested in environmental science, biological science and related STEM fields to highlight opportunities to pursue and "indigenize" careers in public service. In this session, Indigenous and BIPOC Metro staff will present on their educational journeys, navigating traditional and non-traditional pathways to careers, and share on the unique nature and community-focused positions they hold today. Presenters will also highlight previous Metro Parks and Nature projects which included partnership and engagement opportunities with Indigenous communities and Tribes. Through its Parks and Nature work, Metro strives to protect clean water, restore fish and wildlife habitat and connect people with nature close to home. This work is an important part of Metro's efforts to work with communities, businesses and residents to chart a wise course for the future while protecting the things we love about the greater Portland area.

Learning objectives:
- Discuss multiple pathways to achieve academic and professional success
- Introduce pre-college, college and professional members to unique STEM and Indigenous-focused public service careers
- Discuss local program and job opportunities at Metro

Outcomes:
- Participants are interested in working in public service careers
- Participants are interested in working in Tribal, Indigenous or community-focused engagement careers

Speakers:
Isabel LaCourse – Indigenous Community Liaison Metro Parks and Nature
Katie McDonald – Tribal Liaison Metro Government Affairs
Jessica Rojas – Stewardship Lead Metro Parks and Nature
Felicia Teba – Outdoor Program Instructor Metro Parks and Nature

1D: Visioning the Center for Tribal Nations and Waterfront Education Park at the OMSI District
Speaker: Jillene Joseph and Erin Graham
Location: Room 180-Chief Joseph Room
Tracks: Pre-College/College; Engineering/Technology

Description: For many decades, Indigenous communities have sought to restore the native community's presence on the Willamette and address the shared challenges of sustainability, resilience and inclusion. Through community listening with Indigenous groups related to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry's (OMSI's) strategic plan, OMSI learned more about the desire and opportunity to restore the Indigenous community's presence on the Willamette River and to provide a physical place that meets and advances Indigenous communities' needs, opportunities, objectives and goals. And the question was posed
- could the new OMSI District located on the eastern bank of the Willamette River in Portland be the place to realize these dreams?

The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) and Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) are partnering with OMSI to develop the vision and concept for a Center for Tribal Nations and waterfront education park within the OMSI District. ATNI and CRITFC convened a Center for Tribal Nations Advisory Committee to advise the project that includes 24 members and alternates, representing numerous Tribal Governments, community organizations, and the Portland Indigenous Community at large. The process has not always been smooth and we continue to learn a lot! We stay rooted in our values, our history of collaboration, our shared goals related to culturally-inclusive education, and our unique opportunities to create a more inclusive and equitable future for families and communities through collaboration. We invite you to learn about our visioning process, our collaboration, and some of the techniques we've used for engagement. Please join us!

**Speaker Bios:**

**Jillene Joseph** is the Executive Director of Native Wellness Institute and Contractor for the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. Jillene is also an Enrolled member of Gros Ventre.

**Erin Graham** is President and CEO of the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI)
Breakout Time 2: Saturday, 11:00 AM-11:50 AM

2A: Scholarships & Student Supports from the American Indian College Fund

Speakers: David Bledsoe
Location: Room 110-Main Gathering
Tracks: Pre-College/College/Professionals; Engineering

Description: This session will review scholarship opportunities, and best practices for successful applications to the American Indian College Fund scholarships (application is currently open through May 31, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year). We will also review and distribute a number of student support resources and opportunities, covering college going, career development, grants and leadership/goal development. We hope to have several existing scholars speak about their experience. We will have door prizes available to all attendees.

Speaker Bio: David Bledsoe is the Senior Manager of Student Engagement & Communications at the American Indian College Fund

2C: College Chapter Success and Regional College Chapter Caucus

Speaker: Stacy Thacker, AISES National
Location: Room 170-Multnomah Falls Classroom
Tracks: Pre-College/College; Engineering/Technology

Description: This session will focus on creating a successful AISES chapter. We’ll go through the benefits and opportunities of starting a chapter as well as how to keep a chapter strong. There will be tips for recruitment and retention of membership. We will also discuss the annual chapter report and after the session, we’ll begin the Regional College Chapter Caucus and go over some upcoming deadlines/announcements.

Speaker Bio: As the engagement officer for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, Stacy Thacker is responsible for leading efforts to build positive relationships, help students and professionals achieve more success in their STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education and careers, and elevate engagement in AISES. This role involves working directly with AISES Chapters — college and university, professional, and tribal — to create and strengthen support systems for Indigenous students on campus, in affiliated schools, and when applicable, at community centers and tribal nations.

Thacker is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. She has experience communicating and engaging audiences as a freelance journalist whose writings focus on Native American news and features from tribes in New Mexico, Arizona, Montana, and Michigan. Her articles have been published in the Navajo Times and Powwows.com on topics such as tribal sovereignty, entrepreneurship, Indigenous foodways, and more.

2D: PANEL: Creating a Productive Native Employee Network

Panelists: Karen Graves Pyrch, Retired BPA
Melissa Clah, Software Engineer, Intel
Alex Tsosie, Sr. EHS Specialist, The Boeing Company
Wendy Wilhelm, Engineering Director, SuperComputing Integ. & Valid., Intel
Cree Dueker, Portland State University

Location: 180-Chief Joseph Room
Tracks: Professional
Description: Many large organizations have employee affinity groups to support different employees from different underrepresented groups. In this panel session, people will share their experiences with what works and what doesn’t work in creating more helpful Native Employee Networks within large organizations.

Panelists will speak about their personal insights and experiences for

Speaker(s) Bio:

Alex Tsosie (Dine’) is a Senior EHS Specialist at Boeing. He has served as President of the Enterprise Boeing Native American Network and Co-founded the Puget Sound AISES Professional Chapter. He was honored to have a chance to meet personally with Peter MacDonald, one of the US Marine Corps Navajo Code Talkers at last year’s AISES National Conference and host him for a visit at Boeing.

Wendy Wilhelm enjoys putting together supercomputer systems -- and ensuring that the system works. I build and manage large, diverse teams working within complex, little understood situations. I have strong data visualization/communication skills and a strength for learning -- technology and techniques. I am a team builder - matrix and direct, privileged to work with a high performing team.

Melissa Clah is President of the Lower Columbia/Willamette River AISES Professional Chapter and a software engineer at Intel. She works on the programming for automated systems and material handling systems in the semiconductor manufacturing facilities (fabs).

Karen Graves Pyrch (Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma) retired from Bonneville Power Administration. She has been the longtime treasurer for the Lower Columbia/Willamette River AISES Professional Chapter.

Cree Dueker (Chippewa Cree) has lived across the US in New Jersey, New Mexico, California, and Illinois but now calls Oregon Home. She began working at PSU as a student worker in 2011 and is now the Assistant Director of Admissions. She has been helping lead the PSU Native Caucus, a resource group for PSU Native faculty and staff.
Breakout Time 3: Saturday, 1:00 PM-1:50 PM

3A: We R Native: Health, Education, Research and Workforce Pathways for Natives  
Speakers: Michelle Singer and Kelsey Motanic  
Location: Room 110-Main Gathering  
Tracks: Pre-College/College/Professionals; Engineering

Description: The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) is a regional, tribal non-profit that serves the 43 Federally-recognized Tribes of Oregon, Washington and Idaho. The NPAIHB Adolescent Health team has an array of culturally-relevant, strength-based inclusive, holistic tools and resources for youth, young adults, parents and communities in the areas of: health promotion, career pathway/workforce development, community-based indigenous research and social media communication campaigns.

NPAIHB has a network of partners including We R Healers, AISES, Native Wellness Institute's Indigenous 20Something Project, American Indian College Fund and Oregon Health & Science University to name a few. As a collective, NPAIHB supports Natives in STEM, Health Sciences and Public Health in the era of self-determination.

Participants will learn:

- Positive youth development initiatives: We R Native, We R Healers, Inspire Public Health Workforce Project and Paths Remembered 2SLGBTQ+ health.
- Communication strategies including social media, text messaging campaigns and mentoring opportunities.
- Positive youth development strategies and improve practical knowledge of resources and inclusive best practices for promoting health and wellbeing for Native youth and young adults.

Participants will hear from Kelsey Motanic, MD (Umatilla) about her experience and journey from a student in college, research, medical school, residency, practicing family medicine with the Puyallup Tribal Health Clinic and her recent University of Washington Medical School Faculty Position.

Speaker Bios:

Michelle Singer: Michelle Singer, B.S. (she/her | Navajo) is a part of the Adolescent team at the Northwest Portland Indian Health Board and Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center. She is a first generation college graduate of the University of Oregon in General Science, Pre-Med. She has over 30 years of experience working in health, education, research, public policy and community engagement in Indian Country & Alaska.

Kelsey Motanic, MD: Kelsey Motanic, MD (Umatilla) is a family physician with the Puyallup Tribal Health Authority and a Clinical Instructor with the University of Washington Department of Family Medicine. She received her BS in Biochemistry at Western Washington University in 2010 and medical degree at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine in 2017. She participated in the Washington Internship for Native Students (WINS) Program 2011-2012 as a research assistant at the Nation Institute of Health (NIH) in Maryland in the Viral Immunology Section at the National Institutes of Neurological Diseases and Strokes. She was co-president of the first Society for Advancement of Chicanos & Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) chapter at NIH. Kelsey is an AISES Sequoyah Member.

3C: Us in Technology  
Speaker: Jesse Pyrch  
Location: Room 170-Multnomah Falls Classroom  
Tracks: College/Professional; Technology - SaaS (Software as a Service)

Description: Us in Technology is on a mission to help diversify the technology industry by training and placing minorities and historically excluded individuals in sales, marketing, coding, engineering, and revenue roles with top tech companies committed to attracting, retaining and developing under-represented talent. The goal of this talk is to inform Native attendees about the opportunity to earn high salaries in the tech industry and provide them with the
chance to join Us in Technology and receive mentorship and assistance through their journey in landing a new job or career in tech. In addition, Us in Technology is always looking for mentors, and companies wanting to support their own diversity, equity and inclusion goals.

**Learning objectives:** Share the approach, real opportunities and provide Natives with the knowledge and skills necessary to break into tech, specifically SaaS sales.

**Outcomes:** Hope that attendees will choose to join Us in Technology as mentees, mentors, or partnering companies.

**Speaker(s) Bio:** Jesse Pyrch is a member of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe and a Mentor for Us in Technology where he assists a cohort of 50+ minorities earn their first tech sales position.

---

**3D:** Cultural Adversity in the STEM Fields  
**Speaker:** Matilda Brooks, NASA (Yurok)  
**Location:** Room 180-Multnomah Falls Classroom  
**Tracks:** Pre-College/College; Engineering/Technology

**Description:** It is my goal to provide an overview of my experience working as a NASA intern (2015, 2017) by properly assessing the financial aspects (funding, scholarship opportunities and general savings): using my two internships as a blueprint for what potential AISES scholars can expect.

I will go over the general hardships, such as leaving a Tribal College for a Government facility, to acclimating to a tight schedule for project-based contracts. There will be slides made that cover the financial costs of extra curricular activities and housing, so that students can position themselves to successfully complete the 11, or 16 week internship program(s).

Points of focus will be the value of work-life balance, and which memorable experiences can produce more opportunities in the long run. By setting students up to understand the community-focused mentality, we can support students with expectations and the assumption that the experience will be a once and a lifetime event that may be replicated...if they take it upon themselves to push-through the unspoken portions of the Internship program.

**Speaker(s) Bio:**  
**Matilda Brooks** is a member of the Yurok tribe and works for the NASA Ames Research Center. Matilda’s passion for STEM helped carry her from her growing up in foster care in Portland, Oregon to Northwest Indian College and then NASA.
4A: Talking Circle — Going Back to the Rez After College  
**Speakers:** Don Motanic, Retired Intertribal Timber Council (Umatilla)  
**Location:** Room 110-Main Gathering  
**Tracks:** Pre-College/College/Professionals; Engineering  
**Description:** This talking circle will be an interactive discussion (3x5 card w pen/pencil) for participants to examine the challenges and rewards of returning home after college to work with tribal communities. 70% of the current tribal population lives in urban areas (National Urban Indian Family Coalition, nuifc.org)  

**Speaker Bio:** Don Motanic (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) is self-employed after retiring from a 44-year tribal forestry career with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Intertribal Timber Council. His career included living and working with the Yakama Nation, Umatilla and Spokane Tribes. He’s worked with over 100 tribes nation-wide and various national, regional and local organizations and government agencies concerning fire and forest management issues along with collaborating with first nations in Canada and indigenous communities in the Pacific.

He has been involved with Native youth through the AISES since 1981 (Sequoyah member), Wisdom of the Elders, Inc., Washington Ag Forestry Leadership Foundation, Washington State University-Vancouver Native Advisory Council, Society of American Foresters, Big Brothers and Big Sisters and the Forest History Society.

He received his Forest Engineering BS degree in 1978 from the University of Washington.

At home in Brush Prairie, WA, the family’s horse boarding business has evolved with Don and his wife Mary Beth, helping their daughter Jayme move into breeding and training reining horses. Krista works in the Garden Center at Lowes and their daughter Kelsey is a family physician with the Puyallup Tribe and a clinical instructor with the University of Washington Department of Family Medicine.

---

4B: Explore the Possibilities of a Pathway to NASA  
**Speaker:** Alicia Joseph  
**Location:** Pi Nee Waus  
**Tracks:** Pre-College/College; Engineering/Technology  
**Description:** What images or stories come to mind when you hear “NASA”? What have you heard, or experienced, in regards to resources and opportunities at NASA Centers? In this session students will explore the possibilities of an internship and career with NASA and learn some tips and tricks on how to apply to a NASA internship. There will also be time for a conversational question and answer period. NASA’s Minority University Research and Education Project for American Indian Alaska Native STEM Engagement (MAIANSE) seeks to serve American Indian/Alaska Native communities in building their capacity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), particularly by using NASA's unique experiential learning opportunities to engage with students at Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) and other AI/AN-serving institutions. MAIANSE Activity Lead, Dr. Alicia Joseph, will facilitate this session and share a little of her own NASA science journey.

**Speaker Bio:** Dr. Alicia Joseph received her BS degree in Environmental Science from Medgar Evers College of the CUNY in 1997. She has MS degrees in environmental and Occupational health science from Hunter College, and geography and environmental engineering from Johns Hopkins University. Alicia completed her PhD in 2010 at the University of Maryland, College Park; her research topic was “Analysis of the microwave optical depth using physical and semi-empirical emission models”. Her work in the area of microwave remote sensing of soil moisture retrieval takes her on experiments/conferences worldwide. Dr. Joseph also serves as the NASA MAIANSE Activity Manager working to serve American Indian/Alaska Native communities in building their capacity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
(STEM), particularly by using NASA's unique experiential learning opportunities to engage with students at Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) and other AI/AN-serving institutions.

4C: Going to School Free & Applying Made Easy
Speaker: Brook Thompson (Yurok and Karuk)
Location: Room 170-Multnomah Falls Classroom
Tracks: Pre-College/College; Engineering/Technology

Description: This talk is a reprisal of Brook’s talk at the 2021 AISES National Conference. In this talk Brook will show how she organized her scholarship and application process over the years to get college fully paid for through scholarships and graduate school. This talk emphasizes general help on college-level scholarships. Applying to graduate school and scholarships can be overwhelming. Here I describe how to use the scholarship cheat sheet I created. This cheat sheet can be used as a reference when filling out multiple scholarships to prevent burnout and lost information. I also give general tricks and tips.

Speaker(s) Bio: I am a Yurok and Karuk Native American from Northern California. Currently, I am a master's student at Stanford University in the Environmental Engineering program, focusing on water resources and hydrology. In 2020 I graduated from Portland State University's Honors College with a degree in Civil Engineering and a minor in Political Science. I have been an intern for the City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services, The U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, West Yost Associates Engineering, Save California Salmon, and the California Water Resource Control Board. I am a Gates Millennium Scholar, UNITY 2020 25 Under 25 Recipient, and a 2017 Undergraduate AIGC Student of the Year Awardee among other honors. (Adapted from Brook’s [website](#)).

4D: Engineering and STEM Careers in the Navy
Speaker: To Be Announced
Location: Chief Joseph Room
Tracks: Pre-College/College; Engineering/Technology

Description: The most powerful high-tech fleet of aircraft, ships, and equipment in the world need the most powerful minds behind them. If you’ve ever dreamed of working on the most advanced military projects in history, the opportunity to become an engineer in the Navy awaits.
Saturday Tours, 2:00 - 3:50 PM

Sign up for tours at the registration desk. Space is limited on each tour so reserve your spot early.

Each of these tours will leave from the PSU Native American Student and Community Center at 2:00 sharp and return by 3:50 PM.

**Tour 1: Native Plants at PSU, Vernier Indigenous Science Center**

Meet at 2:00 at NASCC room 180 to depart on the walking tour. This tour will be led by Dr. Judy Bluehorse Skelton from the Indigenous Nations Studies Department at PSU.

Tour the Oak Savanna site on PSU campus and the future home of the ITECK Center (Indigenous Traditional Ecological and Cultural Knowledge) and join PSU students to help design and build an outdoor Gathering Space for classes, storytelling, sharing food, drumming, and learning about the native plants in an Oak Savanna ecosystem, including First Foods and Medicines important to regional tribal and urban Native communities.

**Tour Leader Bio: Judy BlueHorse Skelton** (Nez Perce/Cherokee), Assistant Professor, Indigenous Nations Studies, Portland State University, teaches *Indigenous Ecological Healing Practices, Contemporary Issues in Indian Country, Indigenous Women Leadership, Indigenous Gardens and Food Justice and Indigenous Architecture and Design*. She’s worked with federal, state and local Native organizations and tribes throughout the Northwest for more than 25 years, conducting cultural activities and research focusing on traditional and contemporary uses of native plants for food, medicine, ceremony, and healthy lifeways. In 2017 she received the PSU President’s Diversity Award and in 2014, the Oregon Indian Education Association’s award for Outstanding Indian Educator.

Collaborative work includes the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Native American Rehabilitation Assn., the Many Nations Academy at Native American Youth and Family Services (NAYA)A, and other Native organizations in the Northwest. She has served as co-Chair on the Native American Community Advisory Council (NACAC) since its formation in 2011, partnering with Portland Parks, Metro, Bureau of Environmental Services and US Fish and Wildlife Service, integrating Indigenous land practices with Indigenous traditional ecological and cultural knowledge (ITECK) to address Food Sovereignty/Justice and reclaim the urban forest for physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health.
Tour 2: PSU Engineering Lab Tour and Hands-On Activity

Getting to Space is hard and expensive but PSU researchers do some simulated zero-gravity experiments from right here on campus. Come join us for one of the tallest labs in the country, the Dryden Drop Tower is 102 feet tall and allows for 2.1 seconds of near weightless free fall. High speed cameras are used to examine how fluids behave and more. Ah but if you really want to get things to space, the Portland State Aerospace Society student group can help with that. Last month PSAS had the first Oregon-made satellite launched into orbit! They also design and build their own state of state-of-the-art high power amateur rockets. We'll conclude the tour with a hands-on activity in the Engineering Prototyping Lab where you will be able to make your own unique creation.

Tour 3: PSU Civil and Environmental Focused Tour and Hands-On Activity

We live in an earthquake prone area so how do we try to make our buildings, bridges, and other structures safer? Why with a giant shaker table that can hold 20,000 pounds and simulate an earthquake in the PSU iSTAR lab. We'll also see a steel bridge competition entry and overview of the student American Society of Civil Engineers chapter.

Hands-On Activity for Engineering Lab Tours: Fun with rapid prototyping in the Electronics Prototyping Lab. Building your own pocket catapult, assemble a blinking LED. See how laser cutting and 3D printing can quickly turn ideas into physical things.

Engineering Tour Coordinator Bio: Tim Anderson (Pokagon Band of Potawatomi), is the Chair of the Engineering and Technology Management Department at Portland State University. He is one of the few Engineering Department Chairs that is an enrolled tribal member. He is an AISES Sequoyah Fellow and has served as President of the Lower Columbia/Willamette River (LCWR) AISES Professional Chapter and has been hosting the chapter Zoom meetings long before Covid arose. He has a passion for STEM outreach with under-represented groups, having served for over a dozen years each as the PSU AISES Chapter Advisor and board member of Oregon MESA (Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement) organization. Dr. Anderson has engineering degrees from the University of Minnesota and Georgia Tech. He has served as Program Chair or Co-Chair for 19 major peer-reviewed international, conferences in the field of Technology Management. He is the author of numerous research papers and has two books being published by Taylor & Francis. He led the development of the PhD Program in Technology Management and the creation of 6 graduate certificate programs in areas ranging from Project Management to Business Intelligence and Analytics.
AISES Day at OMSI - Sunday April 17th

Join us for our first AISES Day at OMSI, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

You can walk or take the Max line or street car to OMSI. Parking is available for $5 for the day.

The cafeteria area named Theory is reserved exclusively for AISES use on Sunday. We will make a light brunch available at Theory (bagels, coffee, juice) throughout the morning.

Arrive at 10 AM to 10:30 AM for refreshments and socializing, followed by a talk by Brook Thompson, “Journey from the Rez to a Ph.D.” Brook is a PSU Civil and Environmental Engineering graduate. She is finishing her Master’s at Stanford and just accepted admission to a fully paid PhD program.

Next, everyone should be ready to explore the universe with the OMSI Kendall Planetarium reserved for AISES Attendees at 11:30 AM. We will see the “Starry Nights Live” show.

Planes, constellations, the zodiac, shooting stars and satellites are all in the night sky if you know when and where to look. Navigate by the stars and discover how you can become a backyard astronomer. This live presentation focuses on the night sky during the current month.

As you walk towards the planetarium show be sure to look up at OMSI’s Lenses on the Sky Exhibit.

After the planetarium join us again for lunch at the Theory cafeteria and closing discussions.

At 1:15, you can join for a special access to the newly opened, special exhibit The World of Leonardo da Vinci. Timed entry for AISES into da Vinci hall begins at 1:15 PM.

Enjoy the rest of the OMSI Exhibit Hall for the rest of the day. All day exhibit hall access is available to AISES Conference attendees.
Keynote Speaker, Olivia Mathison

Speaker: Olivia (Olivia Kee) Mathison,
Associate Engineer at City of Tacoma

Location: NASCC Room 110-Main Gathering

Day: Saturday, April 16, 2022

Time: 5:00-5:30 PM

While the world was isolating during COVID-19, Olivia Mathison took the lead in organizing a fundraiser and led several relief supply trips from the Pacific Northwest to the Southwest to help the Navajo Nation with desperately needed supplies such as 3D printed face shields, paper goods, various food items, and gently used camping items. With collaboration from multiple partners, the effort delivered 68,000 PPEs from March 2020 through February 2021.

In this talk, Olivia will share her inspiring journey. In addition, Olivia’s role and performance as a project team lead contributed in multiple ways to the success in delivering the project design, construction and documentation for Greenroads Certification as the highest silver rating in the world. The project also obtained multiple awards for the City of Tacoma’s green stormwater infrastructure project in an underserved area of the Tacoma community.

This session will showcase her journey from the dusty, wind-laden lands of reservation life with a panache for spelling from her elementary years to her professional years.

Speaker Bio: Olivia Mathison (she/her) was raised on the Navajo Nation reservation in Tuba City, Arizona and currently resides in Puyallup, Washington. Her clans are Red Bottom People (maternal), Towering House (paternal), and Bitter Water (maternal grandfather and paternal grandfather). She currently works for the City of Tacoma’s Environmental Services Department as a designer/project manager of wastewater, stormwater, and green stormwater infrastructure projects. She also serves as an equity representative to move the organization towards a more inclusive, diverse workforce. Olivia moves through the world like a quiet, powerful stream, never giving up and gently transforming the world around her.
Organizing Committee Members

Draft list: Please let me know if you have corrections or additions. Might be nice to include pictures.

- Tim Anderson, Engineering and Technology Management Department, PSU (Pokagon Band of Potawatomi)
- Marcie Benne, OMSI
- Judy Bluehourse Skelton, Indigenous Nations Studies Department, PSU (Nez Perce/Chehokee)
- Trevino Brings Plenty, Coordinator of Native American Student Services, PSU
- Melissa Clah, AISES LCWR
- Cree Dueker, Assistant Director of Admissions, PSU (Chippewa Cree)
- Scott Erhardt, US Army Corps of Engineers
- Herb Fricke, Akana
- Karen Graves Pyrch, AISES LCWR (Absentee Shawnee of Oklahoma)
- Will Heffern, OMSI
- Gwynn Johnson, Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, PSU
- Don Motanic, Retired, Intertribal Timber Council (Umatilla)
- Nancy Papineau, Dualos LLC
- Lisa Paz, AISES National
- Joyce Pieretti, Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science, PSU
- Josh Powell, Indigenous Nations Studies Department, PSU
- Shelby Santos, OSHU
- Stacy Thacker, AISES National
Local Logistics, Venues, and Hotel

Guests are invited to use the PSU University Place Hotel. It is located at 310 SW Lincoln Street in Portland, Oregon. They can call or book online for a very competitive room rate. The hotel will be the site of the Friday night soft start to the conference.

PSU Covid Policy

Our host institution, Portland State University is striving to maintain a safe space for everyone. All PSU participants must show their PSU ID. All conference participants without a PSU ID must show proof of vaccination or a recent negative Covid test result at the registration table when picking up their Name Badge and other materials. For additional information visit the PSU Covid-19 Response page for In-Person Events. For further questions, please contact or Stacy Thacker, sthacker@aises.org.

AISES Region 1 Conference Registration

Registration is required for this event. Thanks to our generous sponsors, the cost is kept very low to help encourage broad participation from the Native community. You can register in advance at https://www.aises.org/news/events/regional-conferences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-College Student (and their Chaperones)</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Students</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionals</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Registration includes meals, tours, and AISES Day at OMSI. For questions about registration, contact Stacy Thacker at sthacker@aises.org.

Photography and Videography

We would like to share the experience broadly to help encourage other Natives into STEM. As such pictures and videos may be taken but we want to respect people’s privacy. The registration desk will have red stickers to attach to the registration badge for anyone that chooses to not have pictures or video taken. We will then do our best to avoid pictures/video, delete pictures/videos, or crop you out of the pictures.

PSU Guest Wifi

While at PSU (UPlace Hotel and the NASCC), you may use PSU Guest wifi system.

1. Select the Wi-Fi network PSU Guest.
2. Open a web browser and visit any non-HTTPS website (try http://pdx.edu). You will be redirected to the PSU Guest Wi-Fi Access page.
3. Read through the Acceptable Use Policy.
4. Select Accept.
Event Maps

Portland State University Campus Map

PSU NASCC and UPlace Hotel are highlighted on the map

NASCC: PSU Native American Student and Community Center
710 SW Jackson St, Portland, OR 97201
Safe Camp and Code of Conduct

All conference participants are expected to adhere to the AISES standards of conduct. We invite all those who participate in the 2022 AISES Region 1 Conference to help us create safe and positive experiences for everyone.

Safe Camp

The AISES Region 1 Conference is a “Safe Camp,” meaning this is a welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and safe environment for all our AISES family members regardless of race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, or gender expression/identity. Safe Camp includes recognizing the AISES Code of Conduct and anyone found violating the code will be asked to leave the conference immediately. Please contact any AISES staff member or board member if you have any questions.

Code of Conduct

The American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) was established with the goal of developing Native professionals and leaders in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math. In light of this goal, the first student leaders of AISES developed a set of principles that prohibits alcohol, illegal drugs, and harassment. These principals have become core values of the organization and are incorporated as the Code of Conduct.

The AISES Code of Conduct promotes professional development and personal growth by strictly prohibiting the use of intoxicating drugs or alcohol and all forms of harassment and discrimination. This code is meant to reflect the ideals of our Native communities by establishing an expectation that we agree to protect and promote the well-being and growth of all people. This code is expected to be honored when individuals are representing the AISES organization and by all persons participating in AISES activities. To this end, each person is asked to adhere to this code and promote its intent by refraining from prohibited activities and encouraging others to do the same.

AISES will continue to maintain the Code of Conduct as a symbol reflective of the teachings and values of our ancestors. The Code of Conduct represents the ideas and visions set forth by the AISES founders and the student leadership. AISES values and respects the rights and privileges of others and asks that you honor the AISES organization, its mission, and the family of AISES by adhering to this Code of Conduct.
Dick French Memorial Scholarship

Applications for 2022 scholarships are due April 26, 2022. [https://sites.google.com/site/aiseslcwr/](https://sites.google.com/site/aiseslcwr/)

Requirements:

- Be at least 1/4 American Indian/Alaskan Native and/or is a recognized member of a federally recognized tribe.
- Planning to be a full-time undergraduate student at an accredited 4-year college/university or a full-time student at a 2-year college enrolled in a program leading to an academic degree.
- Planning to major in an environmentally-related discipline: biology, forestry, natural resource management, chemistry, entomology, environment science, hydrology, and related disciplines.
- Residence is located within Oregon, Washington, or Idaho.
- Have a current up-to-date student membership in AISES.

PSU Resident (In-State) Tuition for Tribal Members

Students who are enrolled members of 42 federally recognized tribes that have historically resided in or traveled through Oregon qualify for residency regardless of their state of residence. To be assessed resident tuition, it is necessary to provide documentation of tribal enrollment confirming membership in one of the following tribes:

OREGON:
- Burns Paiute Tribe;
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians;
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon;
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon;
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation;
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon;
- Coquille Indian Tribe;
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians;
- Klamath Tribes.

CALIFORNIA:
- Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe of the Benton Paiute Reservation;
- Big Bend Rancheria;
- Big Lagoon Rancheria;
- Blue Lake Rancheria;
- Bridgeport Indian Colony;
- Cedarville Rancheria;
- Fort Bidwell Indian Community of the Fort Bidwell Reservation of California;
- Hoopa Valley Tribe;
- Karuk Tribe of California;
- Likely Rancheria;
- Lookout Rancheria;
- Lytton Rancheria;
- Melochnundum Band of Tolowa Indians;
- Montgomery Creek Rancheria
- Pit River Tribe;
- Quartz Valley Indian Community of the Quartz Valley Reservation of California;
- Redding Rancheria;
- Roaring Creek Rancheria;
- Smith River Rancheria (Tolowa Dee-Ni’ Nation);
- Susanville Indian Rancheria;
- Tolowa-Tututni Tribe (Tolowa Dee-Ni’ Nation);
- Winnemucca Colony;
- XL Ranch;
- Yurok Tribe of the Yurok Reservation.

IDAHO:
- Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho;
- Shoshoni-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation.

NEVADA:
- Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation;
- Paiute-Shoshone Tribe of the Fallon Reservation and Colony;
- Tribes of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation;
- Lovelock Paiute Tribe of the Lovelock Indian Colony;
- Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of the Pyramid Lake Reservation;
- Reno-Sparks Indian Colony;
- Summit Lake Paiute Tribe of Nevada;
- Walker River Paiute Tribe of the Walker River Reservation;
- Winnemucca Indian Colony of Nevada;
- Yerington Paiute Tribe of the Yerington Colony & Campbell Ranch.

OKLAHOMA:
- Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma.

WASHINGTON:
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation;
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation;
- Quinault Indian Nation;
- Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe of the Shoalwater Bay Indian Reservation;
- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.

Also, any member of a federally recognized tribe who graduates from an Oregon high school is eligible for in-state tuition at PSU, more information for Oregon high school graduates [here](https://sites.google.com/site/aiseslcwr/). For more information, visit the PSU tribal residency [page](https://sites.google.com/site/aiseslcwr/) or contact Cree Dueker, at [cree.r.dueker@pdx.edu](mailto:cree.r.dueker@pdx.edu).
Sponsors and Supporters

AISES Regional Supporters

NASA

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation

CAS

America's Navy

Forged by the Sea

American Indian College Fund

Education is the Answer

Local Supporters of Region 1 Conference

Portland State University

OMSI

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry

AMERICAN INDIAN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING SOCIETY

LOWER COLUMBIA/WILLAMETTE RIVER PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER

2022 Region 1 Conference, Portland, Oregon