

HALLIBURTON

Wind River Reservation

October 2018

LITTLE SHOP of PHYSICS



Every year the Little Shop of Physics (LSOP) brings our unique hands-on exploratory approach to science education to schools around Colorado and beyond. This year our tour theme is *We Are All Connected*. We are emphasizing many different types of connections: making mental connections while learning, making electrical connections in circuits, and making connections between people from different background.

In October, LSOP visited Wyoming Indian Middle School (WIMS) on the Wind River Reservation in Ethete, Wyoming. We have a long history of visiting Wind River, and over time we have developed deep connections to several of the local teachers—including Sherry Spofford at WIMS—who has been extremely eager to host since our last visit in 2015. The student population at Wyoming Indian Middle School is over 99% Native American, and many of the students struggle with issues that are ubiquitous on reservations all across the country, including poverty, crime, access to health care, and access to education; only 60% of Native American students graduate high school and only 17% continue to further study beyond high school.

One of the ways we are able to connect with K-12 students is with our interns. LSOP interns are undergraduate students at Colorado State University, and represent a diverse range of background and academic studies. This year we have two interns, Ana Lopez and Rosa Chavez, who are first generation college students from Mexico and Aurora, Colorado. Though they are from very different backgrounds and cultures than the students at WIMS, Ana and Rosa were able to make a strong connection and act as role models for these students, many of whom had never considered attending college or pursuing a career in a STEM related field.

Over the course of the day, we worked with every student at WIMS in small groups, connecting with approximately **200 students in grades 6-8** for 40 minutes at a time. In addition to exploring with our hands-on experiments, every **student received a Halliburton Science-at-Home Kit**, which contained Halliburton-branded rainbow glasses, and sunburn bracelets which turn purple in ultraviolet light.

After exploring with Little Shop of Physics, many of the WIMS students expressed interest in furthering their studies, and some even mentioned coming to Colorado State University to be Little Shop of Physics interns themselves!

The school visit, the materials students received, and this important ongoing relationship, are all made possible by a generous grant from the Halliburton Foundation.



COLLEGE OF
NATURAL SCIENCES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



DISCOVERY BEGINS HERE