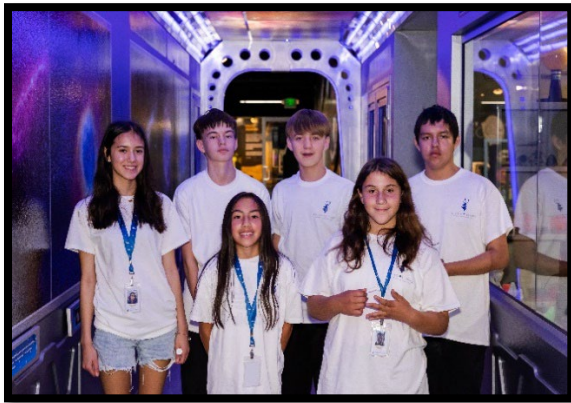


## Winds of Change – Caribou Thunder / Indigenous Minds Article

Since 2010, Rita and her company, Caribou Thunder has sponsored more than twenty youth from the White Earth reservation to attend NASA's weeklong Space Camp in Huntsville, AL.; a true, once in a lifetime enrichment experience for these students. Fueled by the success and life-changing stories from the recipients of these scholarships, paired with her own personal desire to serve the underprivileged Indigenous youth across the nation, Caribou Thunder's Founder and C.E.O. and White Earth descendant, Rita Peterson was propelled to form the philanthropic non-profit organization, "Indigenous Minds", which was founded in 2023.

Indigenous Minds recognizes and supports an inclusive culturally relevant STEM program that includes Art and Spirituality. Thus, a new acronym S.T.E.A.M.S. was born (Science, Technology, Engineering, **Arts**, Mathematics, and **Spirituality**).

This past year, Indigenous Minds re-imagined a new curriculum and location for the S.T.E.A.M.S. Camp. Now based in Colorado Springs, the events included field trips to high tech corporations like Lockheed Martin Space, Northrop Grumman, the U.S. Air Force Academy, Space Foundation Discovery Center, and other educational activities provided by sponsors to help cultivate the students into seeing a world beyond the reservation.



Students also explored some of Colorado's most sacred and natural resources like Garden of the Gods, Estes Park, Cave of the Winds, and Cheyenne Mountain Zoo.

We also had the honor and privilege to tour the State Capital building in Denver and met with Colorado's Lieutenant Governor, Dianne Primavera, where she shared with us her passions for education, Indigenous youth, and her love for aerospace.





The 2023 S.T.E.A.M.S Camp welcomed six young students, five of whom live on the White Earth Reservation in Mahanomen, Minnesota. Building on the success of our inaugural S.T.E.A.M.S. Camp, we were excited to explore new opportunities to discover and nurture more talent.

This past April, Founder and C.E.O. Rita Peterson and Elder Dr. Mark Bellcourt traveled to the National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair (NAISEF) in Stillwater, OK at the Oklahoma State University to select participants for the 2024 S.T.E.A.M.S. Camp. After spending the day visiting with high school students from around the country, and reviewing their science / engineering projects, they selected four incredible students to receive this year's S.T.E.A.M.S. Scholarships.



The Caribou Thunder / Indigenous Minds 2024 S.T.E.A.M.S. Camp Scholarship Winners are:

- Haylei Redhouse, 18
- Jessica Castro, 17
- Marcus Nahalea, 17
- Ember Bahe, 18



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These students showed exemplary talent with their individual projects, ranging from contaminants of uranium and hazardous metals poisoning the Navajo Nation, to analyzing commercials and lab grade Aspirin. These students possess the drive, passion, and ambition to make a difference in the world. We are thrilled to see how their S.T.E.A.M.S. Camp experience will influence them, as they will be exposed to significant opportunities in aerospace, engineering, land, space, and deep space, which will help shape their educational and career paths.

Caribou Thunder and Indigenous Minds are going to continue their mission to inspire the next generation of leaders, engineers, scientists, and explorers, and we know, this is just the beginning.

If you would like to know how you can be a part of, get involved, or support these endeavors, please reach out Caribou Thunder's Executive Assistant to the C.E.O., Alexis Sanchez at [Alexis.sanchez@caribouthunder.com](mailto:Alexis.sanchez@caribouthunder.com) for more information.