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Morris Students Win Honors at AISES Conference

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MORRIS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Morris Students Win Honors at AISES Conference](#)

Summary: Their recognitions continue a strong tradition of AISES achievements by Morris students.

MORRIS, Minnesota (November 24, 2015)—Six University of Minnesota, Morris students were recognized for their oral presentations and creative ideas at the [American Indian Science and Engineering Society \(AISES\) National Conference](#), held November 19–21 in Phoenix, Arizona. Their recognitions continue a strong tradition of AISES conference achievements by Morris students.

Sayge Wooldridge '16, Hill City, South Dakota, earned first-place honors for her oral presentation “Distribution, Thickness, and Age of Loess Deposits in West Central Minnesota: Implications for the Deglacial History.” Dalia Whiting '16, White River, South Dakota, earned third-place honors for her “Application of Visual Quality Management Methodology using GIS and its uses for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.” Isabella Houck '17, Akaska, South Dakota; Francis Reed '16, Shoreview; Michelle LaGarde '16, Morris; and Haylee Rowlette also were recognized by 3M for their outstanding proposed sustainability prototype.

These are only the latest of Morris’s recognitions within the AISES community. Since 2012 the chapter has once been named the Stelvio J. Zanin Distinguished Chapter of the Year and twice received the Outstanding Community Service Award. Advisor Joe Alia, associate professor of chemistry, was named 2014 Advisor of the Year, and 10 students have received individual honors. Morris also hosted the 2013 AISES Region 5 Conference.

American Indian students comprise 18 percent of the student body at Morris—the highest percentage of American Indian students in the University of Minnesota system. In addition to an AISES chapter, Morris offers an American Indian Studies major and minor, Ojibwemowin courses, and National Science Foundation-funded programs to increase student participation in the sciences as well as an Office of Equity, Diversity, and Intercultural Programs, an American Indian Advisory Committee, a Circle of Nations Indigenous Association, and a visiting Elder-in-Residence program.

A national nonprofit organization, AISES is dedicated to increasing the number of American Indian representatives in the physical sciences. Alia serves as academic adviser of the Morris chapter. Student officers include Reed; LaGarde; Ernest Lafferty '16, Eagle Butte, South Dakota; Whiting; Nick TwoBears '18, Columbia Heights; and Tarlynn Tone-Pah-Hote '18, Uncasville, Connecticut.

[View this story electronically.](#)

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.

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