The Little Shop of Physics spent spring break down in the Four Corners Area near Shiprock, NM. Over the course of the week, we visited over 1,600 students at four different schools with predominately Navajo population: Tse’Bit’Ai Middle School, Nizhoni Elementary, Navajo Preparatory School, and Judy Nelson Elementary School. We also hosted a well-attended public community night as well as two teacher workshops where over 40 teachers participated.

This trip is a partnership between the Little Shop of Physics and the Colorado State University (CSU) Native American Cultural Center (NACC). For the past 23 years, this partnership has made it possible for us to visit Native American schools with the joint goal of getting students interested in science and in attending Colorado State University. CSU undergraduate students run the program, and help to facilitate learning. Members of NACC, including those who grew up in the Four Corners region, serve as role models of Native American scholars and help to inform students about opportunities for further science study beyond high school, and scholarships available to attend CSU.

This trip was made possible by a generous grant from the the Halliburton Foundation. Every student received a Halliburton Science-at-Home Kit, which contained UV bracelets, Bernoulli bags, reaction time rulers, chromadepth glasses, and Halliburton-branded rainbow glasses. Additionally, the teachers who attended the workshop, titled Discovery Begins With You, received 11 items as part of Halliburton branded kits to use in their classrooms to teach science. We have found that giving materials to teachers in addition to introducing concepts and pedagogy can impact teachers and students for years to come.