In November, 2017 the Little Shop of Physics (LSOP) teamed up with the Colorado State University Native American Cultural Center (NACC) and the College of Natural Sciences Learning Community (CNSLC) for a fall break trip to the Pine Ridge reservation, in partnership with the local Oglala Lakota College (OLC). LSOP has an extensive relationship with OLC; each year, we have a number of different events that involve faculty and students from OLC:

- Every summer we present a workshop for current and future teachers at which we share instructional techniques, content knowledge, and materials for doing hands-on science at all levels.
- Every fall we visit reservation schools. Over the decade we’ve been visiting Pine Ridge, we have worked with each school; we are now continuing to build relationships as we visit schools for the second or third time.
- At the end of the fall semester each year we bring teachers and students from OLC to CSU campus to help them develop their own version of the LSOP traveling program.
- Each spring we include faculty and students from OLC as featured presenters in our annual Open House.

The relationship with Pine Ridge, the ongoing commitment, fact that it is a true partnership, is crucial to the success of the STEM Pathways program here. The stable funding provided by Halliburton, year after year, has allowed us to continue and to expand the relationship by providing funding for all of the above programs.

The fall break trip is one of the highlights of the Little Shop year. During this year’s three day visit, over 900 K-12 students at American Horse School and Wolf Creek School had the opportunity to explore our 100+ hands-on science experiments, assisted by students from LSOP, NACC, CNSLC and OLC.

OLC staff and students visited each classroom in each school and delivered a Halliburton Science-at-Home Kit including a pair of branded 3D glasses, a UV color change bracelet, a pair of buzzing magnets, and other items for at-home investigation. During a brief presentation in each classroom, OLC staff and students shared these materials and discussed the importance of higher education, and the importance of STEM education for careers in technical fields, including oil and gas, and thanked Halliburton by name. Students heard, from current college students in STEM fields at a college on the reservation, that higher education in a STEM field, leading to a career in a technical field, is an achievable goal. This message was reinforced by the chance to work with native students in STEM fields at CSU.

The visit, the materials students received, and the ongoing partnership, were made possible by a generous grant from the Halliburton Foundation.