Since 2008, the Little Shop of Physics (LSOP) has had a special relationship with the Oglala Lakota tribe on the Pine Ridge Reservation. We have brought the LSOP Hands-On Science Experience to the reservation twelve times, and have seen every school on the reservation at least once, leading to a special tribal proclamation designating the last week in November as Oglala Lakota Nation Little Shop of Physics week.

The cornerstone of our relationship has been our partnership with Oglala Lakota College (OLC), a tribal college based on the Pine Ridge reservation. Each year, OLC helps us identify schools to visit and recruits volunteers to help with our visit. And, each year, OLC sends a team of faculty and staff to Colorado State University (CSU) to build projects for the OLC traveling science program modeled on LSOP. We also work with OLC each summer to present a 3-day workshop on science instruction for current and future teachers.

A few years ago, we started having folks from Pine Ridge join us for our annual Open House, the biggest event of the LSOP year. At this event, we set up over 300 hands-on science experiment stations and invite the public to join us for a day of science fun. This year, over 8,000 people attended, and we were pleased to have the assistance of students and staff from OLC, as well as a group of students and teachers from Generations Indigenous Ways, and a group of students and teachers from Loneman School on the reservation. High school and college students visited classes at CSU and met with instructors from CSU departments, and then worked a full day, setting up projects, explaining experiment stations to visitors, and taking part in all programs. It was excellent to have this group part of this amazing day.

Travel to campus and participation in the event was made possible by a generous grant from the Halliburton Foundation, and this was acknowledged in all promotional materials.