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. LSOP has presented teacher workshops all around Pine Ridge, and has brought teachers and students from the reservation to Colorado State University for workshops and to take part in our Annual Open House.

The cornerstone of our relationship has been our partnership with Oglala Lakota College (OLC), a tribal college based on the Pine Ridge Reservation. From the beginning of our partnership, OLC has helped us reach out to reservation schools and teachers in order to facilitate science education in a culture that historically has been wary of outsiders. Back in 2011, OLC has started its own hands-on traveling science program based on the Little Shop of Physics. They have now developed over 100 hands-on experiments, and the OLC students and faculty who present the OLC Science Experience see thousands of students on the Pine Ridge Reservation and neighboring communities each year.

Every year, a group of faculty and students from OLC comes to Colorado State University to utilize the LSOP expertise to maintain their existing experiments and to create new ones. This is always a highlight of the LSOP year. The OLC team brings a fresh perspective and remarkable creativity. Working with OLC has led us to re-imagine and re-design several of our own hands-on experiment stations.

In December, 2018, the OLC team built over 20 new experiments for their program, and they are already in use at programs at reservation schools.

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