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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AISES Celebrates Achievements of American Indians and Alaska Natives in Science and Engineering

Detroit, MI – Science and engineering leaders, American Indian and Alaska Native students, and professionals from around the world will gather in Detroit, Michigan in November 2006 to celebrate the accomplishments of American Indians and Alaska Natives in science and engineering. From November 2-4, 2006, the American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES) is expecting to host more than 2000 participants at their 28th annual National Conference at the COBO Center. A feature of this year's conference will be the presentation of AISES' annual Professional of the Year Awards. AISES is delighted to announce the 2006 Professional Awards winners, who are being recognized for outstanding achievements in science, engineering and technical professionals as role models, leaders and innovators:

Professional of the Year Award: Frank Martinez

Frank Martinez, Navajo, is from Window Rock, AZ. Martinez is the worldwide digital inclusion program manager for Intel's customer solutions group. He's responsible for setting the strategy and managing the operation of Intel's worldwide digital inclusion program, which aims to significantly increase access to and usage of computers and the Internet among those who historically have not been able to afford or who lack the skills to use a computer. Martinez received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Arizona State University and his master's degree in electrical engineering from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Executive Excellence Award: Ray Haynes

Ray Haynes, Cherokee Nation, Deer Clan, was born in Hemet, CA. Haynes is director of technical alliances in the Office of the Chief Engineer for Northrop Grumman Space Technology. Haynes received his bachelor's in aerospace engineering as well as his master's of business administration at the University of Arizona. He went on to obtain his Ph.D. in operations research from Arizona State University, and is Professor Emeritus at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), San Luis Obispo, California.

Most Promising Engineer/Scientist Award: Bevan Baas

Bevan Baas, Navajo, is assistant professor at the University of California, Davis in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Baas spent two years at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, CA, and then completed his bachelor's in electronic engineering at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. He worked at Hewlett-Packard (HP) Computer Systems Division for two and a half years, and then began graduate school at Stanford University where he completed his master's and Ph.D. in electrical engineering.

Technical Excellence Award: Chris J. Cornelius

Chris Cornelius, Oneida from the Turtle Clan, grew up in Billings, MT. Cornelius is a Principal Member of the Technical Staff in the Chemical and Biological Technologies Department at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Cornelius began his undergraduate education at Montana State University (MSU) in Bozeman. Cornelius was the second Native American to graduate from MSU's chemical engineering program in 1994 and the first Native American to graduate from Virginia Tech's chemical engineering Ph.D. program in 2000.

AISES' National Conference celebrates American Indian and Alaska Native participation in science, technology, and engineering. The three-day conference hosts a variety of educational activities, panel discussions, workshops and a career fair featuring more than 200 exhibitors from corporations, universities, tribal, state and federal agencies. AISES is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to substantially increase the representation of American Indian and Alaskan Natives in engineering, science and other related technology disciplines. Visit the AISES website: www.aises.org. Press packets will be available on-site. For more information, please Cristy Davies, at cristy@aises.org or (505)765-1052 x 108.

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