Dear Four Corners members,

Please find below the newsletter for February 2024. This newsletter will be archived on the 4CS website.

If you would like an announcement included in the Fall 2024 newsletter please use the contacts below. Please keep requests to 200 words or fewer.

Contacts:
4cschair@gmail.com, aps4cs@gmail.com (social media team)

HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- Upcoming events
- Upcoming deadlines
- 2023 Meeting at Logan, Utah
  - Presentation and poster winners
  - Lustig Award winner
- Social Media
- K-12 Grants
- Making the 4CS section more inclusive
- APS annual leadership meeting in DC
- Be part of the APS 4CS Executive Community
- 4CS Host Site Selection Procedure
Upcoming Deadlines

- K-12 grants application: March 3, 2024
- 2024 Conference (Colorado) Host Site Proposal deadline: March 15, 2024
- Harry Lustig Award nominations: July 31, 2024

Upcoming Events:

2024 Summer Physics Camp for Young Women

https://newmexicoconsortium.org/summer-physics-camp-for-young-women/#1643928522118-b7630691-6714 (forthcoming). Contacts: Anna Llobet Megias allobet@lanl.gov

2024 APS Four corners annual conference in Arizona.
- We are pleased to announce the annual 2024 Four Corners Meeting in Phoenix AZ, on Friday and Saturday, October 20-21, 2024? Northern Arizona University (NAU) in Phoenix, Arizona. The aim of the meeting is to support the work of physics students and to give them opportunities to present their research and to meet physicists in our region
- Web-site: TBA
- Contacts: Ines Montaño ines.montano@nau.edu

2023 Meeting
- The 2023 Meeting of the Four Corners Section of the American Physical Society was hosted by Utah State University and was held at the Riverwoods Conference Center in Logan, Utah October 20-21. We had over 200 participants from 26 four corners higher education institutions and laboratories with over 60% student participation. Overall it was a successful meeting and we hope to see everyone again in Arizona in 2024.

2023 Conference Speakers and Poster Winners:
- Congratulations to the winners of our presentation awards!

Outstanding Student Presentations - Poster Presentations:
- Michael Weiss (Colorado State University)
- Jacob Sandusky/Michael Liebel (New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology)
- Willis Holle (University of Utah)

Outstanding Student Presentations - Oral Presentations:
- Natalie Green (Brigham Young University)
- Megan Nielson (Brigham Young University)
- Alexandra Plocki (University of Colorado Boulder)
- Sean Johnson (University of Utah)
- William Wright (Brigham Young University)
- Victoria Nofchissey (Fort Lewis College)
- Eliza Diggins (University of Utah)
The Spherical COW Award: Adam Light (Colorado College)

Most Prolific Judges

Senior Judge: Karine Chesnel (Brigham Young University)

Student Judge: Jacob Sandusky (New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology)

Lustig Award

The 2023 winner was Sanduni Fernando (University of Utah) and the finalists were William Munizzi (Arizona State University) and Lucas Enright (Colorado School of Mines and NIST).

2023 Finalists:
The Harry Lustig award, given annually, consists of a $1,000 stipend and a certificate citing the contribution made by the recipient. Finalists are invited to present their work at the annual Four Corners Section (4CS) meeting, and the recipient is determined after the presentations. Do you know an outstanding graduate student in the Four Corners Section? Please nominate them for the Harry Lustig Award! Nominations for next fall’s meeting are due in July 2024. Details about application packets, judging criteria and committee membership may be found at: https://engage.aps.org/4cs/honors/prizes-awards/harry-lustig. Also, please consider nominating full members of the 4CS to serve on this committee—it's great fun to see all the outstanding work being done in the section in more detail. Contact the chair of the committee with questions or nominations! --- Cynthia Galovich, Chair, Harry Lustig Award Committee. Cynthia.Galovich@unco.edu.

Social Media news
The APS 4 Corners section has social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and soon on linkedin. We use these accounts to share the physics related news from our region and to help create community. Another important resource for communicating with other members of the APS is the engage platform. This allows us to make contacts within APS and then expand the network further with our social media accounts.

We are collecting a list of companies and universities within the 4 Corners region and we plan to highlight companies and student research. Our first company to highlight was RadiaSoft of Boulder, CO. We encourage companies with physics jobs to contact us, and we will also be continuing to reach out.

K-12 Grants
This is a program funded by the APS Four Corners section. This new program intends to support projects which bring physics-related learning experiences to K through 12 students. Priority will be given to proposals that increase the participation and achievement of underrepresented groups in physics and related fields within the region served by the unit. We
will consider proposals from programs looking to initiate physics activities. Deadlines for new applications are **March 3 2024**.

The FY23 awardees were:

- **Physics Summer Camp in Northern NM**
- Immersive Virtual Reality Astronomy Experience project for Southern New Mexico Middle Schools
- Superconducting Magnetic Levitation Track project for Southern New Mexico High Schools
- Interactive Construction of Tabletop Air Hockey Tables project for Southern New Mexico Elementary Schools
- Rocket and Astronomy Summer Science Camps at Utah Valley University

For more information see: [https://engage.aps.org/4cs/resources/k12-grants](https://engage.aps.org/4cs/resources/k12-grants)

**APS Annual leadership meeting at DC**

APS 4CS EC members Abraham Meles, Ines Montaño, Maria J Rodriguez attended the APS Annual Leadership Meeting 2024, taking place January 23–26, 2024 at the Grand Hyatt Washington hotel in Washington, DC. This opportunity benefits our section in amplifying the voice for science and engaging with advocacy efforts.

[https://leadership.aps.org/](https://leadership.aps.org/)

**4CS Annual Election of Executive Committee Members**

The 4CS conducts elections every year for members of the section's Executive Committee, which consists of 12 members plus an Assigned Council Representative. There are staggered terms so that continuity of knowledge is maintained. This year we will be electing five new officers:

- Vice Chair from New Mexico, which is the starting point in the four-year chair line
- Member at large from Utah - three-year term
- Member at large from Colorado - three-year term

The election will be conducted online prior to the annual meeting in the fall. Being a member of the 4CS Exec is a great way to serve the Section, and particularly the students of the 4CS. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Astrid Morreale, 4CS Past Chair (astridmorreale@gmail.com)

**4CS Host Site Selection Procedure**

The 4CS Section has a site selection procedure to choose the host institution for annual meetings. While the host site will continue to rotate among the four 4CS states, institutions interested in hosting should apply via the procedure and timeline outlined in the Site Selection Guidelines.