

**SCIENTIST INVOLVEMENT IN THE LUNAR RECONNAISSANCE ORBITER'S LUNAR WORKSHOP FOR EDUCATORS TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES.** A. J. P. Jones<sup>1,2</sup>, B. C. Hsu<sup>1,2</sup>, and L. V. Bleacher<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Lunar and Planetary Institute, 3600 Bay Area Blvd, Houston TX 77058 (andrea.j.jones@nasa.gov), <sup>2</sup>NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, 8800 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt MD 20771.

**Introduction:** The Lunar Workshops for Educators (LWEs) are a series of week-long professional development workshops designed to educate and inspire grade 6–12 science teachers, sponsored by the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO). Participants learn about lunar science and exploration, gain tools to help address common student misconceptions about the Moon, find out about the latest research results from LRO scientists, work with LRO data, and learn how to bring these data to their students using hands-on activities aligned with grade 6–12 National Science Education Standards and Benchmarks. Where possible, workshops also include tours of science facilities or field trips intended to help participants better understand mission operations or geologic processes relevant to the Moon.

**Scientist and Engineer Involvement:** Scientist and engineer involvement is critical to the success of the entire LRO Education and Public Outreach (EPO) program, outlined in the LRO EPO Implementation Plan [1], and this holds true for the LWE teacher professional development series as well.

The LRO science team reviews educational materials developed by the LRO EPO team used in the lunar workshops. LRO scientists and engineers also give talks about the LRO mission, its journey to the Moon and how it stays in orbit, LRO science results, the history and future of lunar exploration, and other lunar topics of interest at each of the workshops. Contact with the LRO mission scientists and engineers is consistently ranked as one of the most important and most inspiring components of the LWE on workshop surveys and evaluations, such as demonstrated in an example survey response from a workshop participant: “The lectures were amazing. To hear the science that is happening now is very powerful.”

**A Unique Contribution:** Involvement of mission science and engineering teams are a unique aspect of NASA workshops. Other groups can offer thematic professional development opportunities about similar topics, but few can offer contact with scientists and engineers who know what the health and status of a spacecraft is *right now*, who are analyzing data that has not yet been publically released, or who can inspire educators like mission scientists and engineers are able to do. These contributions of NASA scientists and engineers should be encouraged and highlighted wherever possible to help educators educate and inspire the next generation of scientists and explorers. The LRO

science and engineering teams, through their contributions to the Lunar Workshops for Educators, help the LRO EPO team support this goal.

**For More Information and To Register for a Lunar Workshop for Educators:** Please visit <http://lunar.gsfc.nasa.gov/lwe/index.html>.

**References:** [1] Hsu, B. C. (2010) LRO EPO Implementation Plan, submitted to NASA Headquarters for LRO Senior Review.