

SCIENTIST INVOLVEMENT IN PLANETARY SCIENCE EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH. S

Shipp¹, H. Dalton¹, K. LaConte¹, C. Shupla¹, E. CoBabe-Ammann², A. Wessen³, R. Zimmerman-Brachman³, D. Boonstra⁴, J. Ristvey⁵, D. Mackety⁵, C. Igel⁵, S. Buxner⁶. ¹Lunar and Planetary, Houston, TX, shipp@lpi.usra.edu, ²Emily A. CoBabe & Associates, Inc., Boulder, CO, ³NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA, ⁴Sustainability Schools Consulting, Houston, TX, ⁵Midcontinent Research for Education and Learning, Boulder, CO, ⁶Planetary Science Institute, Tucson, AZ.

Introduction: The Planetary Science Education and Public Outreach (E/PO) Forum supports the Science Mission Directorate's (SMD) Planetary Science Division (PSD) research and education community. The Forum helps to organize the activities of E/PO mission and granted programs into a coordinated effort that effectively uses NASA's science discoveries and learning experiences to advance public understanding of the universe and inspires the next generation of explorers.

Building a Community of Practice: The Forum's role is to engage, support, and extend the community of E/PO professionals and scientists involved in planetary science education activities by ensuring information and opportunities are shared with this community. Through communications, online interactions (<http://smdepo.org>), and meetings, the Forum facilitates opportunities for community members to communicate, collaborate, leverage existing programs and partnerships, and become more skilled education practitioners.

Increasing Effectiveness: SMD's four audience-based Working Groups provide guidance about the needs of the K-12, higher education, informal education, and public audiences; this informs the activities and products of the community and the Forum. Over the next four years, the Forum will work with the community and PSD to develop thematic educational approaches – beginning with the Year of the Solar System (<http://solarsystem.nasa.gov>; LPSC 2011 abstract #2618) – allowing mission and other educational activities to be placed in the context of the overarching concepts of planetary science. Concurrent with this endeavor, the Forum is assisting in the review of SMD's portfolio of education products and activities, helping to strengthen these resources and identify portfolio needs. The reviewed products and activities will be integrated into a single online resource (currently dubbed the "Catalog of Wonders"), easily accessible to intended audiences. The Forum also is concentrating efforts on supporting the development of a network of higher education faculty, including design of an online clearinghouse through which faculty can share undergraduate course materials.

Pathways for Involvement: There are numerous paths available for planetary researchers to become more involved in SMD E/PO! The Planetary Science Forum can help scientists:

- Understand NASA funding possibilities and how to successfully acquire education funding;
- Discover programs needing scientist input or support;
- Build relationships with education specialists to work with you on educational programs;
- Learn what education resources already exist;
- Get resources to share with students; and
- Find out what research says about how we learn and effective teaching techniques.

Please contact the Planetary Science Forum (PlanetaryForum@lpi.usra.edu) to explore opportunities for participation!