

NASA SMD SCIENTIST SPEAKERS BUREAU. C. Shupla¹, S. Buxner², S. Shipp¹, E. CoBabe-Ammann³, B. Hsu¹, B. Meinke⁴, and D. Smith⁴, ¹Lunar and Planetary Institute (3600 Bay Area Blvd, Houston, TX 77058, shupla@lpi.usra.edu), ²Planetary Science Institute (1700 East Fort Lowell Rd, Tucson, AZ 85719, buxner@psi.edu), ³Emily A. CoBabe & Associates, Inc. (2410 Vassar Drive, Boulder, CO 80305, ecobabe@spaceeducation.org), ⁴Space Telescope Science Institute (3700 San Martin Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218, meinke@stsci.edu).



Introduction: All NASA Science Mission Directorate-funded scientists interested in giving presentations are invited to join the new NASA SMD Scientist Speaker's Bureau! The intent of this new system is to enable educators and institutions to contact scientists who are interested in giving presentations, based upon the topic, logistics, and audience.

Aside from name, organization, location, bio, and (optional) photo and website, the information that scientists enter into this database will not be made public; instead, it will be used to help match scientists with the requests being placed.

The NASA SMD Scientist Speaker's Bureau will be available to receive speaker requests from various educational institutions in the spring of 2013.

The system is accepting interested scientists' entries now and will continue to do so, at <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/speaker/>.

Potential Speakers: All NASA-funded Earth and space scientists engaged in active research are invited to fill out the form, including those who are involved in missions, institutes, grants, and those who are using NASA science data in their research, and more. *There is particular need for young scientists, such as graduate students and post-doctoral researchers, and women and people of diverse backgrounds.*

Need for a Speaker's Bureau: There has been a continuing call for scientists to become involved in education. AAAS stated, "To broaden science learning opportunities within and beyond the classroom, members of the scientific community can be recruited to participate in K-12 education as observers, guest speakers, tutors, and consultants." [1] One of the most common ways for scientists to interact with students, adults, and general public audiences is to give presentations regarding their science. Yet those involved in education, such as teachers, education specialists, and museum and planetarium educators, do not have a simple way to connect with those planetary scientists, Earth scientists, heliophysicists, and astronomers who

are interested and available to speak with their audiences. This system is designed to help meet the need for connecting potential audiences to interested scientists.

Design: The system is designed to generate a list of potential speaker "matches" based upon the details submitted in the request and the scientists' own preferences, such as their availability to travel, willingness to present online or in person, interest in presenting to different age groups and sizes of audience, topics they are interested in addressing, and more. If a request form is submitted and no scientists meet the criterion specified, the requestor is invited to change one or more factors; for instance, to consider additional topics for the presentation, or to consider potential speakers that can give the presentation via the internet.

Requesting a speaker. When a speaker request is submitted and the requesting organization has selected one of the potential scientists meeting the criterion, the system will automatically send an email to the scientist regarding the request. (At no point will scientists' contact information be made public.) At this point, it will be up to the scientist to respond to the email request and communicate directly with the person who has created the request, to either confirm details or to indicate that they are unavailable to give that presentation. It is strongly suggested that scientists provide a response within 10 days of receiving the emailed request. The requests will be monitored to ensure responses are made. If scientists are unable to fulfill requests for presentations, they may respond directly to the requestor or may ask that the message be relayed by planetaryforum@lpi.usra.edu; the requestor will be encouraged to use the system again to find an alternate scientist and repeat the request.

Travel reimbursement. No funding will be provided by the Speaker's Bureau for travel; if funding is needed, the scientist should discuss it with the institution before accepting the request to speak.

Making changes or opting out of the system. If a registered scientist would like to cancel their participa-

tion in this program, there is a mechanism on the website to remove the data from the system at any time. If there are changes in the information (for instance, updates to the topics or a change in address or institution), please contact shupla@lpi.usra.edu.

Future Expansion: After this system is piloted and functioning as intended, it may be expanded to help scientists interested in becoming involved in other educational programs and writing proposals for funding to contact educators in their area.

References:

[1] American Association for the Advancement of Science (1998) *Blueprints for Reform*, Ch. 9 Teacher Education.