



Project ASTRO - Tucson

The Local ASTROGRAM for Tucson Project ASTRO Participants

Issue 11

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Project ASTRO - Tucson Coalition Organizations

**The University of Arizona:
Flandrau Science Center
Mt. Graham - Discovery Park
Lunar and Planetary Lab
Steward Observatory**

Tucson Unified School District

**Tucson Amateur Astronomy
Association (TAAA)**

**Fred Lawrence
Whipple Observatory**

Sahuaro Girl Scout Council

Pompea & Associates

Pima Community College

Project ASTRO Tucson Thriving, Says Director

Greetings to all ASTRO-Tucson participants:

I'm writing with good news, to let you know that Project ASTRO-Tucson has received additional funding from the National Science Foundation that will keep us strong for another 3 years!

The funds will be used to support Project ASTRO-Tucson coordination and workshop costs. The *FIFTH* Project ASTRO-Tucson Annual Workshop will take place October 13 & 14, 2000, with a follow-up event March 24, 2001. Visit the ASTRO web page for updated information: (<http://www.noao.edu/outreach/astro/>)

In addition, Tucson has been selected as the first Chair of the Project ASTRO National Network, which means we will lead the network of 11 ASTRO sites for the next year. Funding through the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, founder of Project ASTRO, has terminated for all expansion sites including Tucson. We're all on our own now, and Tucson has stepped forward to lead the pack.

(See Tucson Thriving - page 2)

Teachers & Astronomers Needed for Fifth ASTRO Workshop

The fifth year of Project ASTRO-Tucson will begin with an evening at Kitt Peak National Observatory Friday October 13, with Danny Lopez presenting a Tohono O'odham storytelling component. Joni Chancer and Gina Rester-Zodrow, authors of *Moon Journals, Writing, Art and Inquiry Through Focused Nature Study*, will lead activities at Kitt Peak and at the workshop on Saturday, October 14 at the Steward Observatory Building.

Project ASTRO-Tucson staff ask that all past participants help recruit new teachers and volunteer astronomers to form partnerships during the 2000-2001 school year. New partners are asked to attend the Project ASTRO workshop October 13-14, 2000, a follow-up workshop March 24, 2001, and commit to working together in the classroom at least four times during the school year. They will join the local and national network of Project ASTRO partners that is growing coast-to-coast.

For information about Project ASTRO-Tucson visit the web page:
<http://www.noao.edu/outreach/astro/>

Applications: contact Ginny Beal,
gbeal@noao.edu, 520-318-8535.



Tucson Thriving (continued from page one)

One more bit of good news is that the Space Telescope Science Institute, Initiative to Develop Education through Astronomy and Space Science (IDEAS) Program has awarded the NOAO Educational Group nearly \$20K to work with authors Joni Chancer and Gina Rester-Zodrow, incorporating ideas from their book "Moon Journals: Inquiry, Writing, and Art through Focused Nature Study" into our Project ASTRO workshop. These ideas were introduced at last year's workshop and now we have the opportunity to further explore the integration of astronomy, inquiry, writing, and art.

To summarize, we have nothing but good news:

1. ASTRO-Tucson received funding from the National Science Foundation for another three years.
2. Tucson is selected as the first chair of the ASTRO National Network of now independent ASTRO sites around the country.
3. NOAO Educational Outreach received an additional \$20K to support efforts to integrate Project ASTRO-Tucson and Moon Journals.

We hope all your partnerships are thriving and you are enjoying being part of Project ASTRO-Tucson. A wish for the future would be that we hear from you more often, and that additional opportunities for sharing resources and experiences as ASTRO partners can be developed. Ideas of how that can be accomplished are welcomed by Ginny Beal (318-8535, gbeal@noao.edu) or myself. Please let us hear from you.

Meanwhile, Project ASTRO-Tucson is strong! Congratulations to all!

Suzanne Jacoby
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More Universe At Your Fingertips Now Available from the ASP

The much-awaited 'sequel' to *Universe at Your Fingertips* can now be ordered from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, with the usual Project ASTRO partners' 10% discount. *More Universe at Your Fingertips*, compiled by Pacific Science Center Director, Dennis Schatz, features many new astronomy and science experiments. To order your copy, call the ASP catalog department, 1-800-335-2624. To get your discount, tell them you're an ASTRO partner.

ASTRO - Tucson featured in "Mercury" Magazine

The January-February 2000 issue "Mercury" magazine, the journal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, featured an article about Project ASTRO - Tucson. "A Partner-Approach to Astronomy Education: Project ASTRO the Tucson Way", written by Tucson Coordinator Ginny Beal, who followed the evolution of Project ASTRO in Tucson, and highlighted the benefits of the program to Tucson partners.



Moon Journals - Good Addition to ASTRO Workshop Format

According to feedback from workshop participants, the September 1999 Project ASTRO workshop was enhanced by the inclusion of Moon Journals presentations and activities. The numerical ratings were all greater than 4 on a 1 (poor) - 5 (excellent) scale, and the Moon Journal segment rated high. ASTRO 2000 participants are in for a real treat, with moon activities to be presented on Kitt Peak. (see page 1, *Teachers and Astronomers Needed*).

Reunion Attendees Are Winners

On December 17, 1999 the Project ASTRO staff at the National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO) hosted a reunion for all ASTRO partners (1996 - 2000). The NOAO Educational Outreach Office and ASTRO Coalition members donated multimedia prizes that filled and overflowed from the surfaces of many large tables.

About 15 teachers and 5 astronomers attended the open house on the NOAO patio to collect the donated materials for their ASTRO classrooms. Partners shared ASTRO stories over refreshments, and old friends were reunited at this relaxing fall 'grading day' event.

Door prizes included astronomy textbooks with CD ROMS, night sky guides, and gift certificates to the Kitt Peak Nightly Observing Program. The lucky door prize winners were Donna Sider, Baboquivari High School, Renee Crawley, Drachman Elementary School, Joanne Clark and Mary Hutchens, San Simon High School, and Barry Bozcar, Baboquivari Middle School.

Everyone at the event was a winner, heading back to school with books, posters, tapes, CD-ROMS, spectroscopes and materials for activities.

Project ASTRO - Tucson

Year 5 - Workshop

October 13-14, 2000

Information: *<http://www.noao.edu/outreach/astro/>*

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