Engaging the Community

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NOAO Users Committee
The Problem

• Engaging the community must be a high-priority NOAO activity
  – Misconceptions about NOAO abound
  – For a “balanced” program to succeed, everyone must see enough benefit in it to be satisfied
    • The community is diverse in many ways
    • Broad participation in shaping that program is essential
  – Leadership isn’t merely marching in some direction, it’s bringing everyone else along.
  – The NSF has indicated that they will support NOAO’s program if there is strong community endorsement.
Engaging the Community Working Group

• Established staff working group
  – Doug Isbell, Abi Saha chair
  – Focus so far
    • plan for AAS
      – Mini-tutorials/presentations
    – Develop poster for long-term display on university department bulletin boards
    – Some discussion of electronic newsletter, improvement to web site, etc.
Getting the message out

• Newsletter - supplement with more frequent, electronic updates
• AAS display
  – Focus on NOAO-wide message
  – Short tutorials
  – Giveaways
• Website - needs updating
• In-person presentations
  – Staff visits to departments
  – Regional town meetings
  – To CAA, AAAC, dept chairs meeting
• Printed material
  – Poster in development
  – Brochures
• Other - podcasts? youtube?
Soliciting Input

• Standing committees (Users)
• Ad hoc committees to analyze and address specific questions (ReSTAR)
• Small workshops (System Workshops)
• “random” electronic input
  – Web forms (e.g., observing run evaluations)
  – Email “complaint department”
  – NOAO-wide helpdesk
• Surveys and polls
• Astronomer-in-residence program
Users committee input

• What media are effective?
• Interest in ongoing participation in discussion
• How can Users Committee solicitation of input supplement or complement what we are doing?
• Other ideas?