National Undergraduate Research Telescope (NURT)

Problem: Decreasing general access to small/med telescopes
Most small telescopes are aging
Aperture-Nights is an incomplete metric
(16 nights on 2-m vs. 1 night on 8-m)

Education
Undergrads: Observing at a Nat'l Obsy can be a defining experience
  • Responsibility in situation where it matters
  • Informal interactions — being taken seriously by grown-ups

Grad Students: More nights at a telescope makes better astronomers
Proposal

- New 2-3 m telescope at Kitt Peak
  operated by NOAO (or NOAO/Consortium)
  100% of time available

- Some Tip (or % time) to encourage projects that involve undergrads

- Simple instrumentation—imaging only
  CCD mosaic, perhaps IR also

Straw-Person Telescope

2.5 m f/6.5 (AH-Az?)

4K x 4K CCD mosaic, 24 μm pix
  \[ \Rightarrow 20' \times 20' \text{ field at } 0.3''/\text{pixel} \]

IR? Cost? $5M ±