

Report on the American Astronomical Society Meeting

I traveled to Honolulu to attend the 235th American Astronomical Society meeting on January 3 – 8, 2020. During this meeting, I participated in three outreach and education workshops and attended many talks and poster sessions. Below are summaries of the meeting activities and how it impacted my job.

Part 1: Description of activity and how it impacts my job

I attended the following workshops

1. **Workshop Name:** Astronomy Ambassadors workshop
Description: A two-day workshop that focused on introducing effective astronomy outreach activities and improving participants' outreach skills.
Result: I was trained to run a number of outreach activities and also received a list of astronomy activities for a wide variety of topics. Many of these activities are suitable for my introductory astronomy classes. I have adjusted the course content this semester to include these activities, which will make the classes more interactive and enjoyable for the students. I will also use these activities in future outreach events.
2. **Workshop Name:** Teaching for Equity
Description: A workshop that discusses the cause of inequalities in the classroom and potential solutions.
Result: I have gained several ideas for creating a science classroom that is more comfortable and productive for students of all genders and from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds. These ideas will be implemented this semester.
3. **Workshop Name:** New K-12 and Undergraduate Education Resources from Sloan Digital Sky Survey
Description: A workshop that introduces a variety of educational resources that make use of data from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS, a very extensive and widely used survey in astronomy).
Result: I learned about tools for accessing data from SDSS and potential projects suitable for students of all ages using these data. These projects will be incorporated into my introductory astronomy labs, and also used for school and science fair projects for the students that I mentor.

I've also attended talks and poster sessions in which I learned about the latest updates and discoveries in astronomy. This information will be shared with my students in class.

Part 2: How the knowledge and expertise were shared

The knowledge I gained from this conference will be incorporated into my classes and shared with my students as described in part 1. Most of the knowledge/expertise from this meeting are specific to astronomy. I will work with my department to share any appropriate information with the STEM faculty.