

## **The NASA Lunar Science Institute, Outreach Efforts for an International Scope**

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### **Abstract**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has a clear set of goals and objectives related to education and public outreach. These goals follow directly from NASA's mission "to inspire the next generation of Scientists and Explorers."

The NASA lunar Science Institute (NLSI) has adopted these goals as a backbone of our education program and made Education and Outreach major pillars in its foundation and Mission Statements.

In this talk we will look at how the NLSI Education and Public Outreach (EPO) program has been a major element in preparing the next generation of scientists and in sharing with the public the excitement of discoveries we make when we explore the Moon. We will particularly explore those efforts that may be leveraged with international partners.

### **1. Introduction**

The NASA Lunar Science Institute supplements and extends existing NASA lunar science programs. Supported by the NASA Science Mission Directorate (SMD) and the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate (HEOMD), the NLSI is managed by the NASA Ames Research Center and is composed by dispersed teams across the nation working together to help lead the agency's research activities related to NASA's lunar exploration goals. Competitively selected team investigations focus on one or more aspects of lunar science -- investigations of the Moon (including lunar samples), from the Moon, and/or on the Moon. The NLSI also has an international partnership program that provides collaborative opportunities for the global science community. At this time the NLSI counts 7 national teams and 7 international nodes.

#### **1.1 Mission Statement**

The NLSI fosters collaborations within and among

competitively selected domestic teams, the broader lunar science community, and multiple international partners in order to:

- I. Conduct collaborative, cross-disciplinary research in all areas of lunar science and enhance innovative communication between geographically disparate researchers through the use of information technology,
- II. Provide scientific and technical perspectives to NASA on its lunar research programs and missions,
- III. Support the broader lunar science community through in-person conferences, virtual seminars, and community-driven focus groups,
- IV. Encourage Education and Public Outreach (EPO) through formal education content development, informal student programs and participatory public events,
- V. Train the next generation of lunar scientists with research opportunities at the undergraduate, graduate, and post doctoral level while supporting early career scientists with conferences focused on their needs.

### **2. Education and Public Outreach (EPO)**

The NASA Lunar Science Institute (NLSI) EPO program hosts a multitude of efforts in promoting the public understanding and appreciation of the Moon and Lunar Science and Exploration; by building bridges between formal and informal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education; and supporting informal education and public outreach programs. Here we look at the NLSI EPO resources shared with the international partners through leverage and communications.

### **3. Summary and Conclusions**

The NLSI continues to play a major role in contributing to the development of the STEM workforce in disciplines needed to achieve NASA's

strategic goals through a portfolio of Interests.

The NASA Lunar Science Institute (NLSI) supports a vigorous education effort aimed towards developing an international cadre of the next generation of lunar scientists.

