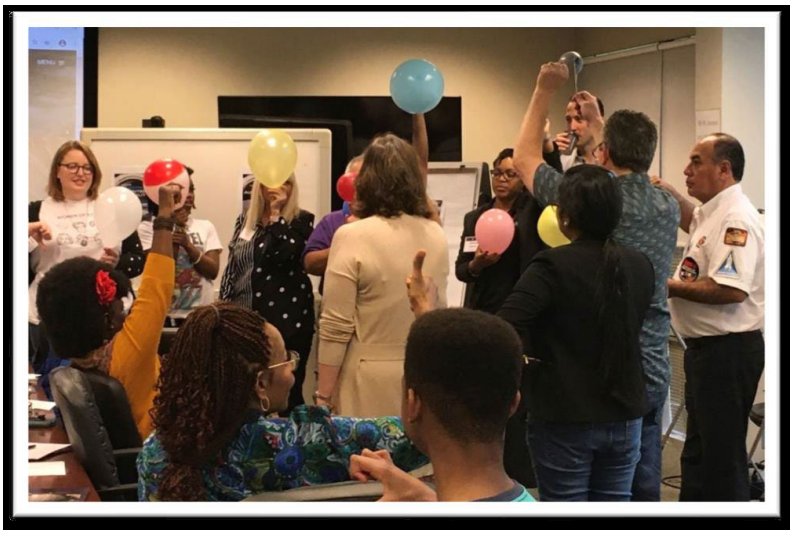
2020 SOLAR SYSTEM EXPLORATION PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT INSTITUTE. M.A. Matiella Novak[1], C. Shupla[2], [1]Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, [2]Lunar and Planetary Institute

Introduction: This 2-day event was held February 4-5, 2020, at the Lunar and Planetary Institute and at Space Center Houston. The event was funded by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) VORTICES program, part of NASA's Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute, and coordinated by the Lunar and Planetary Institute and APL. Based on input from the leaders of NASA's Solar System Ambassador's program, the event was held in conjunction with the annual Space Exploration Educators Conference (SEEC) conducted by Space Center Houston. The Institute was attended by 17 scientists and educators (informal, formal, and Solar System Ambassadors) from across the United States, as well as 4 family members, and 4 presenters: Christine Shupla and Sha'Rell Webb (LPI), and Joelle Clark and Lori Rubino-Hare (Northern Arizona University).



Program Description: This institute focused on public engagement, to provide an experience for those who conduct public engagement. The institute's objectives are to support participants' interest and enthusiasm for engaging audiences in solar system exploration, and to increase their ability to do so by providing appropriate activities and content, including connections to NASA-funded subject matter experts. As such, the program focused on solar system exploration content and interaction with planetary scientists, who participated and gave presentations on a variety of topics.

Facilitators modeled over a dozen solar system exploration activities that can be conducted with public audiences in a variety of venues and programs. Activities were selected based on popularity, ease of use, and their connection to broad solar system topics. In addition, the Science Activation PLANETS team members Joelle Clark and Lori Rubino-Hare were invited to participate and share their planetary activities (Water in the Solar System). Science Activation infrastructure project Solar System Treks (Brian Day) presented resources remotely.

Over a dozen solar system activities were conducted with participants. Activities were selected based on their appropriateness for short public engagement, and flexibility for use with different audiences. Two of the planned activities were cancelled, to provide additional time for the presentations and questions /answer sessions. Participants found the activities extremely useful. At the end of the institute, participants shared their implementation ideas and created plans. Each of the participants was required to indicate that they would be willing to use the content or activities from the institute in at least two events over the upcoming year. Participants will be invited to post information about their events and data will be collected through a Survey Monkey link.