

“One Earth - One Universe” Professional Development on Native American Perspectives

Dear Colleague:

You are invited to participate in “One Earth – One Universe,” a professional development workshop on Native American perspectives sponsored by NASA Space Science Education and Public Outreach.

Dates: February 15-18, 2005

Location: Bishop Lodge (tentative), Santa Fe, New Mexico

Important Note: Because we will be building a learning community as a core dynamic of the meeting we ask for your uninterrupted participation for the duration of the workshop.

**Application Deadline:** December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004

**Application URL:** <http://cse.ssl.berkeley.edu/1earth1universe/>

Notification of Acceptance: January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005

Registration Deadline: January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Registration Fee: approximately \$300 per person (Fee will cover most meals and field trip to Bandelier National Monument.)

Contact Information: Please see the end of this letter.

“One Earth – One Universe” is a professional development effort **focused on science and different ways of knowing**; It is also about building the capacity within the NASA research and E/PO community to accept Native science perspectives with the same validity we accord to Western scientific methodologies. This workshop is intended to increase our cultural competency and our knowledge of the history of western and native science.

This workshop will make visible the Native paradigm from which Native science emerges. In a co-equal learning space, we will explore the history of western science. Native scholars who are both traditionally and university trained will help bridge the worldviews. Our purpose is to broaden the view of science and cultivate the ability to hold divergent views as equal in order to explore another way of knowing the natural world. The potential for exploring a new view of science and to build genuine diversity of thinking presents an exciting learning opportunity. In many contexts, such as pharmaceuticals, environmental science, medicine and health, it is accepted that native knowledge is essential to obtain a full scientific picture that is integrated, coherent, and whole. In the realm of physics and astronomy, this has not typically been the case. There is a growing confluence between the two paradigms and there is certainly a strong potential for western science to benefit from being exposed to methods of acquiring knowledge that have been practiced, proven and refined over thousands of years. Preparing ourselves as scientists for such an opportunity is an important first step.

It is important to clarify that this professional development effort is not about Education and Public Outreach (E/PO) – *i.e.*, it is not about how to work effectively with the Native American community to enhance NASA education and public outreach to underserved groups. We will be cultivating the capacity to understand the Native paradigm and view of

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science. This is crucial if we wish to collaborate with the Native American community, in research or E/PO, in a way that is not ultimately patronizing and condescending.

Because of limited space we may not be able to accommodate all who wish to attend. However, it is our hope that this workshop will be the first of several professional development learning experiences on Native American perspectives.

Please join us for this exciting opportunity!

Sincerely,

“One Earth – One Universe” Workshop Planning Team

Rose von Thater-Braan (Tuscarora/Cherokee) (Silver Buffalo Consulting and The Native American Academy)

Nancy Maryboy (Navajo/Cherokee) (Indigenous Education Institute)

Marie Battiste (Mi'kmaq) (Department of Education, University of Saskatchewan)

Carolyn Ng, Elaine Lewis, Troy Cline, and Jim Thieman (NASA/GSFC)

Shari Asplund (NASA/JPL)

Christy Edwards (Space Science Institute)

Phil Sakimoto

Peg Steffen and Leah Bug-Townsend (NASA Headquarters)

Sonya Lawrence (NASA/Langley Research Center)

Jennifer Grier and Mary Dussault (Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics)

Lynn Narasimhan and Jesus Pando (De Paul University)

Laurie Ruberg (Center for Educational Technology)

Julie Lutz (University of Washington)

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**Contact Information**

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