

NASA/HEAT Rice U Status Report – February 2022

Patricia H. Reiff, Rice University

- ***Education: Astronomy for Teachers Class began Jan 10***

Five teachers have enrolled for graduate credit in my class ASTR503 “Astronomy for Teachers”, and another five for professional development. Their tuition would be \$8900 for three hours, but because of discounts from Rice and support from other accounts, the grant is only paying \$900 each. The course contains learning objectives about all of stellar and galactic astronomy, but for the purposes of this grant, they will learn about the Sun and its life cycle and effects, plus review materials to be shown in a workshop at NSTA (and help with the workshop, like they did at CAST in the fall).

Participants:

Teachers: 11 people, 7 women, 2 Hispanic, 2 African-American, 1 Asian.

- ***Eclipse Training, Arredondo Elementary, Richmond, TX***

One of the ASTR 502 teachers borrowed the Discovery Dome for a “Science Night” outreach event at their school (Arredondo Elementary) on February 10, 2022. Reiff helped them get set up and trained, and helped with the first two hours of the event. Then Kirah Martinez finished up and packed up the dome. Being able to borrow the dome for free is a “perk” for teachers who have been trained in our teacher classes.



Students waiting for (top), then inside the dome (right) at Arredondo.



Participants:

Teachers: 6, students about 300, virutally all hispanic and economically disadvantaged)

Location: Rosenberg TX 77469

- ***Annular Eclipse and Artemis Animations Additional Distribution***

The annular and total eclipse animations, plus the Artemis animations, are continuing to be distributed.

We did not send out any new notices to our eclipse planetarians list this month and have provided digital copies to 56 planetariums so far.

Planetarians can sign up to get any of our animations for free here:

<https://forms.gle/sS8q31qFSDRnhnbX7>

Annular eclipse animation info and links:

https://space.rice.edu/eclipse/eclipse_animations.html **Note** the descriptions and links to the individual pieces are given in October 2021 report.

Recipients of the animations February 2022:

One planetarium downloaded the animations in February: (from the UK).

Our eclipse information email list is now up to 748 contacts, with 206 planetarians with active subscriptions. People can sign up here: <http://eepurl.com/cv68Qj>

“Reach for the Stars” Planning gets into high Gear

We decided on April 9, 2022, as the date for the next “Reach for the Stars” event for middle school girls. The Local Organizing Committee has been formed and has started weekly planning sessions for the event. (<http://space.rice.edu/ReachForTheStars>).