Begun in 2005, the NASA and the Navajo Nation project celebrated 12 years of partnership by hosting a workshop for K-12 educators from across the Navajo Nation on February 2-3, 2017, at Navajo Technical University. Presentations and hands-on activities brought together scientific and cultural knowledge into a “dual-learning environment” wherein teachers explored the two connections.

In a new activity, teachers “mapped” the Four Worlds of Diné cosmology onto a scientific timeline of the history of the Universe. The highlight was special guest Aaron Yazzie, a Diné man and mechanical engineer at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) who shared with the teachers his career path and current work on the Mars 2020 Rover.