

Scientist Engagement at the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference

Planetary scientists attended communications sessions, mentored students, shared their research, and conducted demonstrations at events organized by the Lunar and Planetary Institute's Education and Public Engagement team at the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference (LPSC), March 18-23, 2018.

Fourteen planetary scientists gave presentations and demonstrations to approximately 60 members of the public at *Planetary Science Palooza*.

The event featured four scientists' presentations on solar system exploration, and over a dozen scientists and members of the SMD Science Activation community conducted demonstrations. In evaluation surveys, all attendees indicated that they enjoyed the event (84% strongly agreed and 16% agreed) and learned more about planetary science (63% strongly agreed and 37% agreed), and 95% of attendees indicated that it met their expectations. www.lpi.usra.edu/education/planetary-science-palooza.

Scientists provided feedback and mentoring to students and other early career attendees.

In the *Early Career Presenters Review*, young scientists present and receive feedback on their papers before conference presentations. *LPSC Insights: Get Connected, Stay Connected* paired 23 first-time LPSC attendees (undergraduate/graduate students) with an experienced scientist mentor.

Thirty planetary scientists attended a communications session, *Sharing Science with the News Media*.

Science journalists shared tips and provided insight on giving interviews and sharing science with the press. In a follow-up survey, all respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the session's information was useful and that it increased their knowledge or preparation for communicating with the press and other journalists. www.lpi.usra.edu/education/scientist-engagement

Three planetary scientists presented during *Live from the LPSC*.

This teleconference for the NASA Solar System Ambassadors and the Museum Alliance featured dynamic young planetary scientists who shared the exciting conference research.



Above: Scientists compared features of meteorites to chocolate bars at the Palooza event. Credit: LPI.
Below: Demonstration of an interview during the communication session for scientists. Credit: LPI

