



2019 LARGE FACILITIES WORKSHOP

APRIL 2-4 | TEXAS ADVANCED COMPUTING CENTER

Information Section

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| Topic: | The role of Education and Public Outreach during Construction and Operations |
| Speaker(s) Name, Title: | Amanda Bauer, Sharon Cooper, William Buckingham |
| Session Description: | Exploring models for construction and operations of EPO at large facilities. |
| Session Time Slot: | Tuesday, April 2 – 10:50 a.m. |
| Purpose and Desired Outcome: | Speakers from facilities in different stages of construction and operations share challenges and best practices in developing and maintaining an EPO program |

Notetaking Section

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| Scribe Name | |
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Disclaimer: *These are raw notes that were captured by the assigned scribe during this session at the 2019 Large Facilities Workshop. This is one individual's interpretation of what took place during the session, and its content does not necessarily represent the viewpoint of the National Science Foundation.*

Notes and Key Points:

- LSST EPO was funded at the initiation of the LSST Project; EPO is a main subsystem of the project, responsible for deliverables.
- User-testing and prototyping is critical for success
- Have to make technology decisions now, with flexibility for refreshing as technology develops.
- Leverage small amounts of funding with strategy
- Education and outreach support overall goals with different programs/methods; programs mapped to goals and audiences
- Programming is evidence-based, based on input from scientists, education experts, etc. Assessment is done in-house
- Program examples: School of Rock, In Search of Earth's Secrets
- Kitt Peak Transformed defunct telescope into a visitor center; science capability maintained
- Transitioning to telling a broader story of NSF-funded astronomy rather than the local Kitt Peak story

Best Practices:

- Assessment should be continuous; analytics monitored, surveys done often, focus groups less frequently
- In construction, look at what others are doing well and borrow ideas
- Network with groups like IAU Education group, reach out to people who have led projects
- Important to develop new channels to distribute information as science journalism wanes
- Large facilities should collaborate with each other
- Develop ways to help people interact with data who might not have the related background or skill set

Actionable Recommendations (Action Owner Name & Organization):

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Decisions:

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Session Summary

This session was a presentation and discussion of best practices at three different facilities, one under construction (LSST), one in operations (International Ocean Discover Program), and one in transition (Kitt Peak Visitor Center). Evaluating, networking, and collaborating were all acknowledged as the key to developing and maintaining successful EPO programs at all stages.