

**Glenn Visitor Center – 2009 End of Year Report
Administered by Paragon TEC
Contract #NNC07CB33C**

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Glenn Research Center (GRC) Educational Programs Office will work to develop education content development which will align with the NASA Education Outcomes, primarily Outcome #3; and, to reconfigure the GRC Educator Resource Center to provide continuous activities to both formal and informal educators which will align with the NASA Education Outcome #2. The project will include development of educational products and activities, training opportunities, and staff professional development to inspire the next generation of explorers. To ensure this task is accomplished, the following two positions were filled; 1) Educator Resource Center Coordinator to provide professional educators and others with the opportunity to obtain current classroom information and materials regarding the aeronautics and space program of our Nation, and 2) Curriculum Developer to design and develop science, mathematics, geography, and technology curriculum containing instructional NASA content. The GRC Educational Programs Office will also provide support for three middle school summer camps and educational exhibits for various informal venues.

PROJECT GOALS

The long-standing goal of the project includes the strengthening of NASA and the Nation's workforce. This will be accomplished by attracting and retaining students to STEM and by engaging Americans in NASA's mission. The project's activities aim to inspire, engage, and educate, utilizing NASA Education Operating Principles (Relevance, NASA Content, Diversity, Evaluation, Continuity, and Partnerships/Sustainability). GRC intends to expand the reach to our informal audiences, to provide professional development, and increase student experiences through a number of educational products and workshops which are of high value and extreme interest to our customers. We will equip educators with context-rich resources to support curricular needs and STEM standards used to inspire student interest in STEM disciplines and careers. The percentage of the educators who use these resources is an important measure of their utility, effectiveness, and relevance.

PROJECT BENEFIT TO OUTCOME (1, 2, OR 3)

Outcome 2 – Elementary and Secondary Education – Attract and retain students in STEM disciplines through a progression of educational opportunities for students, teachers and faculty.

Measure - Percentage of elementary and secondary educators who obtain NASA content-based

education resources or participate in short-duration education activities and use NASA resources in their classroom instruction. The educator's workshops and resource support for their classroom programs will enhance and ease the delivery of the importance of mathematics and science in the classroom.

IMPROVEMENTS (e.g. project management, efficiencies, etc.) MADE IN THE PAST YEAR

After the transition of the lunar sample disk program to Johnson Space Center, three lunar/meteorite sample disks will permanently remain at GRC under the ERC Coordinator's supervision for use by Aerospace Education Specialists, Speakers Bureau Members, and all other GRC employees who are lunar certified.

In February 2010, the ERC will host a preservice educator workshop which will focus on NASA Glenn Research Center's contribution to the Constellation Program and lunar science with lunar sample disk loan certification. An Aerospace Education Specialist will provide hands-on activities and inquiry-based lessons.

The ERC Coordinator also traveled to Kennedy Space Center for a site visit and collaborated with their ERC Coordinator to ensure the establishment of a successful resource center.

Reconfiguration of the ERC is underway to increase the capability to conduct education and outreach activities.

PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONNECTION BACK TO ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND PLANS)

Serviced approximately 65 educators in which a wide assortment of NASA resource materials and other education materials distributed. Lunar samples were provided to two educators and were incorporated into the classroom curriculum which provided an enriched educational experience to 170 students. The students attended Riverview Middle School in Huntington, Indiana, and Glenbrook North High School in Northbrook, Illinois.

The full scope of the project accomplishments will not be known until all data is collected and analyzed. The project expects to increase the percentage of elementary and secondary educators using NASA content-based STEM resources in the classroom; increase the percentage of both formal and informal educators who participate in NASA training programs and activities; and, increase student participation in NASA activities. The project expects to increase the percentage of elementary and secondary educators using NASA content-based STEM resources in the classroom (2.1.2)

Inventory of ERC materials that were housed in two separate locations are now being consolidated into one area by the ERC Coordinator providing easier access to resource materials for educators.

PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS TO PART MEASURES (INCLUDE DATA PLUS EXPLANATION)

Measure - Percentage of elementary and secondary educators who obtain NASA content-based education resources or participate in short-duration education activities and use NASA resources in their classroom instruction.