EXCITE. EXPLORE. DISCOVER.

Education & Outreach Newsletter

***Giant Worlds* Tour Schedule**

October 1 - December 31, 2010
Discovery Museum
Bridgeport, Connecticutt

February 1 - April 30, 2011
Lafayette Natural History Museum and Planetarium
Lafayette, Louisiana

Only two more dates available for this tour!
Contact Lisa Curtis-- curtis@spacescience.org

***Great Balls of Fire* Tour Schedule**

June 1st - December 31st 2011
Science Museum of Virginia
Richmond, Virgina

October 1st - December 31st 2012
Catawba Science Center
Hickory, North Carolina

Dates available for this tour!
Contact Lisa Curtis-- curtis@spacescience.org

NCIL Welcomes Kate Haley Goldman

The National Center for Interactive Learning would like to welcome Kate Haley Goldman to the team. Ms. Haley Goldman joins us from the Institute for Learning Innovation (ILI), where she

STAR_Net Is Ready for Launch!

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently awarded the Space Science Institute's National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL) a $2.5 million grant for its national program to bring science and technology exhibits to libraries. NCIL's STAR_Net Project (STAR stands for Science-Technology, Activities and Resources) is based on a successful pilot program for Colorado libraries called Discover Space. STAR_Net will develop Discover Earth and Discover Tech, two interactive traveling exhibit and education programs with a focus on hands-on learning.

The Discover Earth exhibition will introduce local earth science topics, such as weather and water resources, as well as a big picture view of our changing planet for a global context. The exhibit will feature a Microsoft SurfaceTM and an 18-inch in diameter Magic PlanetTM. Discover Tech will have three major content areas designed to show how technology is constantly changing our lives, while also providing solutions to important human problems. These areas are My Robot, High Impact Technology, and Green Energy. Discover Earth should be on the road by late 2011, visiting host libraries around the country. Discover Tech will travel to eight libraries beginning mid-2012.

Meet the Stars of STAR_Net

Team members include NCIL, the American Library Association (ALA), the Lunar and Planetary Institute (LPI), and the National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP). NCIL's Director and Principal Investigator for STAR_Net, Paul Dusenbery, believes it is the unique nature of STAR_Net that led to the NSF award, saying: "It's not at all common to get NSF funding on the first try, but we're doing something special by reaching out to underserved communities. We have also assembled an outstanding team who have many years' experience developing quality informal education programs."

Co-PI Lisa Curtis of NCIL agrees, adding, "[k]ids who may have never been to a science center regularly visit libraries. A public library plays an important role in its commuity. We want to support the role of libraries as places of informal science learning."

Co-PI Susan Brandehoff of the ALA will be managing the national tour and providing resources to host libraries. When asked why this is such an exciting exhibit for the ALA to be involved with, Brandehoff said: "Previous exhibits have been about the humanities because our primary support has always come from the National Endowment for the Humanities. But the few exhibits related to science in the past have been met with great enthusiasm by libraries, and even higher interest from their communities."

Advisor Beth Barrett (Director of the Louisville public library, inaugural host to Discover Space) couldn't agree more, saying "I was blown away that such a small public library could be chosen to host a museum-quality exhibit [Discover Space] that was so

oversaw a wide variety of projects. She has directed projects both in the US and abroad, involving mobile phones, websites, gaming, augmented and mixed reality, novel data visualization systems, and online learning. Recent projects at ILI include a four-year evaluation of astronomy programming called Astronomy from the Ground Up, audience research for the *Encyclopedia of Life*, summative evaluation of the NSF-funded computer game *WolfQuest*, and program-level evaluation of NOAA's *Science on a Sphere.* Ms. Haley Goldman will be directing the Center's Learning Research and Evaluation Group. Her projects include directing the research on NSF's newly funded open-source project for small science centers and museums called *Open Exhibits*, and working on the *STAR_Net* project, providing front-end and formative evaluations.

interactive and engaging."

To learn about STAR_Net, please contact Lisa Curtis, (720) 974-5821 or curtis@spacescience.org

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