Boil, Boil, Toil and Trouble – Connecting with the Community through Microgravity Boiling Experiments
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Get Away Special Team Info

- Undergraduate microgravity research team
  - Focus on research projects and outreach activities
- Approx. 12 members
- Multi-disciplinary group
Lessons Learned

- Get input from teachers for improvement on classroom visits
- Participate in a variety of activities
- Collaborate with other departments and established programs
- Keep it simple
- Working closely with public relationships puts you in a position to connect with more people
- Show, don’t tell (use projects)
- Use any venue to help the community understand
Classroom Visits

- Have a plan
- Teacher survey after visit
- Work with educators to develop lesson plans
- Have students come up and be a part of the lesson
  - Solar system example

Variety of Activities
Variety of Activities

Collaborate, Collaborate, Collaborate

- No need to re-invent the wheel
- There are a lot of other groups also doing outreach
  - Contact and collaborate with them
  - Pool resources
  - Advertise for each other's events
- Helps to expand your variety of activities
Keeping It Simple

- Use language appropriate for the audience
- Bring hands on demonstrations
- Remember what kept your interest at that age
- Don’t bring a big group to present at small activities
- Bring a big group for large activities

Public Relations

- Get in contact with your department or college’s PR person
  - They can connect you to local services
  - They can describe your events better than you can
- Possible PR outlets
  - Newspapers
  - TV
  - University magazines
  - Public radio
Using Projects to Connect

• Have a project and hardware you can use to show students what STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) is about.
Outreaching to the Community

- Use any resource and avenue available
- Be aware of activities you can help with
- Let sponsors know what you’re doing
Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of community members interacted with</th>
<th>3,500</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of classrooms visited</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of students personally visited</td>
<td>1,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public relations stories (newspaper articles, TV spots, etc)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic presentations</td>
<td>9 (for 2010–2011 academic year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships</td>
<td>Society of Women Engineers, AIAA, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Engineering Council, Science Council, Society of Physics Students, MESA, USU's College of Education and Human Services, Clark Planetarium, USU/INL Physics Day at Lagoon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Where We Are Going Next

- Expand collaborative efforts
- Improve classroom visits
  - Provide materials to teachers
- Get high school students involved in our next project

Questions?