Journey Through the Universe
Feedback Summary

Journey Through the Universe is a local education and outreach program led by NSF’s NOIRLab, the Hawai‘i Department of Education Hilo-Wa‘ikua Complex Area, and the Thirty Meter Telescope International Observatory. The program promotes science education in Hawai‘i Island school districts and inspires students to explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields by developing literacy in science. Journey endeavors to foster curiosity and wonder about our Universe, and the cutting-edge research and technology that is allowing us to understand our place in the cosmos like never before. The success of Journey Through the Universe over the past 19 years is evidence of the support from our local community partners across government, business, astronomy and higher education, and our foundational partnerships.

Evaluating the Impact of the Program
Celebrating its 19th year, from 27 February to 2 March 2023, Journey Week included in-person classroom presentations and career panels. This Feedback Summary is a collection of the data obtained from Journey Through the Universe teacher and astronomy educator surveys. Every year we collect and evaluate these data to find new ways to improve our program; we hope this summary will help to make our 20th year even better!

Journey Through the Universe Deliverables

Connections
Journey Week establishes effective relationships between STEM professionals and local teachers and their students.

STEM Careers
Career Panels and STEM professional presentations in classrooms provide opportunities for students to explore a variety of careers in STEM.

Scientific Literacy
Classroom presentations support grade-level standards and provide a space for practicing science skills.

Wonder
Journey Week’s hands-on experiences for students foster curiosity and wonder about our Universe and our place in space.

Journey Through the Universe 2023 Reached

| 11 schools | 160+ classes | 3100+ students | 150 teachers |

Astronomy Educator Results
Astronomy educators volunteer to visit classrooms during Journey Week and offer 30–60-minute hands-on presentations and/ or participate in career panels for various grade levels. Astronomy educators differ in their professions, as astronomers, engineers, information and technology services, outreach specialists, and more. Seventeen astronomy educators submitted feedback for their entire Journey Week experience. While the majority of the astronomy educator’s feedback was positive, their valuable responses have led the Journey Team to focus on developing new strategies to better prepare all presenters for Journey Week.
100% of astronomy educators would like to participate again next year.

Teacher Results
Every teacher is asked to complete one survey per presentation done in their class. The teacher feedback form was designed to obtain quantitative and qualitative feedback from participating teachers. About 155 teachers took part in Journey 2023, of whom 49 completed the feedback form.

Developing Lasting Relationships
How many years have you participated in Journey Through the Universe?

Overall Satisfaction with Journey
My overall satisfaction with the Journey program is...

Developing Positive Attitudes in STEM
Journey Week helped my STUDENTS to develop positive attitudes toward STEM careers.

Mahalo to Everyone Involved!
For the full summative evaluation report including recommendations for the future, visit this document. For a highlight of all activities during Journey Week visit this report. Additional information can be found on the Journey website.