



January 2104 • Issue 29

## Currents

NOAO invites you to attend three important Town Hall meetings at the 223rd AAS meeting at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, National Harbor Maryland, near Washington DC:

- NSF Town Hall – Monday 6 January, 12:45 – 1:45 pm, Maryland Ballroom C
- Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) Town Hall – Tuesday 7 January, 12:45 – 1:45 pm, Potomac Ballroom C
- NOAO Town Hall – Thursday 9 January, 12:45 – 1:45 pm, Maryland Ballroom C

• • •

## In this Issue

[AAS Town Halls](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## In this Issue...

Please join us at the **annual NOAO Town Hall** (Thursday, 12:45). The NOAO Director, David Silva, will discuss the ongoing transformation of NOAO. This presentation will include updates on new instrumentation (DECam, DESI, KOSMOS, COSMOS, and TripleSpec4), on NOAO in the era of Big Data and LSST, and a discussion of the NSF facility divestment plans. The presentation will be followed by ample time for discussion of issues and concerns raised by the audience.

The **Thirty Meter Telescope Town Hall** (Tuesday, 12:45) will highlight important progress and new developments as TMT approaches the start of construction in 2014. Michael Bolte (UCSC) will present an update with the latest news about the TMT observatory, instruments and partnership. Mark Dickinson (NOAO) will discuss the US TMT Liaison activities now underway as part of a cooperative agreement between the NSF and TMT, looking ahead to possible future NSF partnership in the observatory. This will include a report on activities of the new US TMT Science Working Group, and on opportunities for the US astronomical community at large to become involved in TMT.

We also encourage you to attend the **NSF Town Hall** (Monday, 12:45). The discussion period associated with this event is your chance to discuss issues and concerns with NSF representatives about all matters under their purview, including the ongoing development of the implementation strategy for operating NOAO in response to the Portfolio Review released in August 2012.

• • •

## Contact Us

Your input is welcome on any of these issues. Please send your thoughts to:  
[currents@noao.edu](mailto:currents@noao.edu).

*Currents* is a sparkplug for communication between NOAO and our community. It provides updates—and solicits community input—on NOAO observing opportunities and NOAO programs and policies on a more rapid timescale than is possible with the *NOAO Newsletter*.

NOAO is the national center for ground-based nighttime astronomy in the United States and is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA), Inc. under cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation.

[subscribe](#) • [unsubscribe](#)