

Physics of Atomic Nuclei (PAN) @ MSU 2012

JINA's flagship outreach program at NSCL took place from July 30 - August 10 this year, hosting 19 science teachers in the first week and 24 high school students in the second. Living on campus for the duration, participants were treated to full-time instruction in nuclear astrophysics, incorporating lectures from current researchers, training on equipment, and designing/conducting cosmic-ray experiments.

PAN @ MSU teachers and students developed an ingenious array of tests regarding the abundance of cosmic rays, and reported their results in a public poster session at the end of the program.

In surveys, teachers reported that they looked forward to sharing their new knowledge in their own classrooms, exhibiting strongly increased interest and comfort with nuclear astrophysics. Students found that PAN @ MSU gave them a highly positive impression of research careers, and supported their interest in pursuing such a major or minor in college.

Teacher reactions:

"I feel that if I learn 2 things to take back and use in my classroom then it is a win. I was at 6 things on Monday"

"To be surrounded by people who really care about learning, who really care about kids was food for the soul."

Student reactions:

"Fantastic all-around program. It's the best summer camp I've ever attended. It is a real treat to be around people who want to chat about math and science and who are smarter than I am."

"You brought the kid into the candy store"



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