

Joint Institute for Nuclear Astrophysics

MSU Science Festival

USA Science & Engineering Festival 2014



JINA and NSCL welcomed inquisitive minds to our combined exhibit at both the 2nd Annual MSU Science Festival (SciFest) and the 3rd USA Science & Engineering Festival (USASEF) in Washington DC.

In a new, joint venture, we combined resources to model the entire nuclear experimentation process from acceleration and fragmentation to separation and detection. As the activities were presented to participants, they were motivated by a desire to understand the origin of elements as well as other open questions in current research. Goals included increasing scientific literacy (especially with respect to nuclear astrophysics), describing the education path for interested youth, and reducing public fears regarding radiation and all things “nuclear.” In addition, there was an informational area where parents and educators could engage faculty regarding questions such as educational resources, societal applications, policy, etc.



SciFest was a 6-day event with a multitude of activities such as lectures and workshops. We participated in the expo on April 5th where more than 500 people (including many future scientists) visited the exhibit. Families expressed their appreciation for making nuclear science clear and accessible.



USASEF was a 3-day extravaganza which kicked off with Sneak Peak Friday on April 25 for local students, and military families. The Expo was open to the public all day April 26-27 with over 325,000 attendees. Many families thanked us for “one of the best exhibits we’ve seen today.”

The JINA and NSCL exhibit space operated at peak capacity for most of the 3 days, interacting with nearly 5000 visitors. While most participants were families and educators unfamiliar with JINA, there were a surprising number of PAN alumni and hopeful applicants, demonstrating how much our flagship outreach program has grown over the last decade. In fact, a PAN alumna who is currently a freshman at MSU joined the volunteer contingent along with 5 graduate students from MSU, 4 graduate students from ND, and 4 faculty/staff.

Contact Information for JINA Outreach:
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www.JINAweb.org/html/events.html
Event Websites:
<http://sciencefestival.msu.edu/>
www.usasciencefestival.org/