

PIXE-PAN 2007 @ Notre Dame



The second annual PIXE-PAN program at the University of Notre Dame was conducted from June 18-29, 2007. Five high school teachers and 15 students took part in the program. Of the 20 total participants, there was nearly a 50-50 split along gender lines with 3 female teachers and 8 female students. With the opening of the state of the art teaching laboratory in the newly constructed Jordan Hall of Science, participants performed 4 experiments exploring different topics in modern physics and used the FN tandem accelerator in the Nuclear Science Laboratory to perform PIXE measurements on a variety of samples.

The first week of the program was devoted to teacher training for the experimental stations covering PIXE, measurement of the speed of light, XRF, electron charge and mass, and Compton Scattering. During the second week, the teachers were provided the opportunity to relay this information to the students. Groups were intentionally kept small to increase the amount of hands on experience for each participant.

In addition to the experiments, lectures by Notre Dame Faculty covered PIXE Applications, Nuclear Physics and an Introduction to JINA Science. At the end of the program, parents of the students were invited to see student presentations about their findings followed by a student led tour of the laboratories and a trip through the universe in the Digital Visualization Theater.

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