

**Gemini Observatory Press Release**  
For Immediate Release on February 20, 2014

For images and more details see: [www.gemini.edu/journey](http://www.gemini.edu/journey)  
Contacts at end of release

**GEMINI OBSERVATORY LEADS 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF  
HAWAII'S JOURNEY THROUGH THE UNIVERSE**



“Ten years ago, the idea to intensively share the discoveries made by the Mauna Kea observatories with our Hilo-area schools and community started a revolution,” says Gemini Observatory’s Janice Harvey who has kept the revolution expanding every year since then.

The program, based on a national program called Journey Through the Universe, began in Hawai‘i in 2004 and, according to Harvey, “has exploded beyond our wildest dreams!”

This year, the program has continued to attract numerous partners, including national participants from NASA and beyond, in what promises to be the program’s most explosive year yet when it kicks off on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Almost 80 scientists, engineers and educators will engage several thousand students in presentations at Hilo area schools during the week starting on March 10<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the public is invited to join in the Family Science Day at the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Education Center on March 9 where numerous educational, family-friendly events, and talks will be presented by local astronomers, scientists, and educators. Details on the specific events can be found at: <[www.gemini.edu/journey](http://www.gemini.edu/journey)>.

The “Journey” partnership began when the Gemini Observatory and the Hilo-Waiakea Complex of the Hawai‘i state Department of Education agreed to work together and share Mauna Kea astronomy with students. Over the past decade tens of thousands of local students, hundreds of teachers, and the community-at-large have benefited from the Journey program which has grown to include dozens of local (and national) research and education institutions as well as local businesses, government agencies and individuals. “We measure our success by our impact on

students,” says Hilo-Waiakea Complex Area Superintendent Valerie Takata, “but we are also proud of the partnerships this program has fostered with our local community and when community partners come to us to participate we know we are having an impact.”



The extensive local and national partnership includes: DOE Hilo-Waiakea Complex Area, Gemini Observatory, Bank of Hawai'i, Basically Books, Big Island Toyota, Caltech Submillimeter Observatory, Canada-France-Hawai'i Telescope, DeLuz Chevrolet, Hawai'i Community College, Hawai'i Electric Light Company, Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce, Hawai'i Island Economic Development Board, Hawai'i Space Grant Consortium, Hawai'i Tribune-Herald, IEI - Indigenous Education Institute, 'Imiloa Astronomy Center, James Clerk Maxwell Telescope, Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Joint Astronomy Centre, KTA Superstores, KWXX Radio Station, Mauna Kea Astronomy Outreach Committee, Mauna Kea Visitor Information Station, NASA Infrared Telescope Facility, NASA Lunar Science Institute National Center for Earth & Space Science, National Optical Astronomy Observatory, National Radio Astronomy Observatory, PISCES, Project Astro/Family Astro, Purdue University, Rotary Club of Hilo Bay, Smithsonian Submillimeter Array, Subaru Telescope, Thirty Meter Telescope, UCO Lick Observatory, UH Hilo College of Pharmacy, UH Hoku Ke'a and 2.2 Meter Telescopes, UH Institute for Astronomy, United Kingdom Infrared Telescope, University of California – Berkeley, University of California - Los Angeles, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, University of Hawai'i-Manoa, University of Oregon, and W.M. Keck Observatory.

### About Gemini Observatory

The Gemini Observatory is an international collaboration with two identical 8-meter telescopes. The Frederick C. Gillett Gemini Telescope is located on Mauna Kea, Hawai'i (Gemini North) and the other telescope on Cerro Pachón in central Chile (Gemini South); together the twin telescopes provide full coverage over both hemispheres of the sky. The telescopes incorporate technologies that allow large, relatively thin mirrors, under active control, to collect and focus both visible and infrared radiation from space.

The Gemini Observatory provides the astronomical communities in six partner countries with state-of-the-art astronomical facilities that allocate observing time in proportion to each country's contribution. In addition to financial support, each country also contributes significant scientific and technical resources. The national research agencies that form the Gemini partnership include: the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF); the Canadian National Research Council (NRC); the Brazilian Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação (MCTI); the Australian Research Council (ARC); the Argentinean Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva; and the Chilean Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica (CONICYT). The Observatory is managed by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc. (AURA) under a cooperative agreement with the NSF. The NSF also serves as the executive agency for the international partnership.

### About the Hawai'i Department of Education

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is the ninth largest U.S. school district and the only statewide educational system in the country. It is comprised of 288 schools and serves more than 185,000 students. Hawaii's public school system was established in 1840 by King Kamehameha III. To learn more about the Hawai'i Department of Education, visit: <[HawaiiPublicSchools.org](http://HawaiiPublicSchools.org)>.

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