



Janice Harvey

# Journey Through the Universe

*Gemini North's flagship local outreach program launches into its second decade with unflagging support from the community and Maunakea observatories.*



*Jeff Donahue, Gemini's senior optics technician, explores the properties of light with students at Hilo Union Elementary School as part of a Journey Through the Universe classroom presentation.*

2015 ushered in the second decade of *Journey Through the Universe* on the Big Island of Hawai'i. During our 11th year of "Journey" week, over 50 astronomers, engineers and observatory staff continued to inspire and engage thousands of local Hawai'i students (over 5,000 this year).

Since its conception well over a decade ago, Journey has partnered successfully with Hawai'i Department of Education's Hilo/Waiakea School Complex, to augment its science curriculum and spark an interest in astronomy and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)-related initiatives. District Superintendent Valerie Takata elaborates, "Our schools' stellar partnership with the observatories, business organizations, and community is Journey Through the Universe's STEM initiative. As part of the educational system, our complex area is overwhelmed with appreciation for the enthusiasm and energy this initiative has generated for our schools... students, teachers and administrators, and families. This concerted effort has made this grassroots program a sustaining reality as we move into our second decade. We humbly thank the community for their continued support as we all

work together toward common goals and building a better future."

As Takata so eloquently explained, this stellar outreach initiative has a broad impact on our community. Following is a sampling of the events that lit up the Hilo schools and community with our STEM-inspired outreach activities.

We welcome you to become a part of our Journey team. For more information please visit [www.gemini.edu/journey](http://www.gemini.edu/journey).

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Gemini astronomer, Chad Trujillo, demonstrates the scale of our Solar System to 3rd grade students at Ha'aheo Elementary School.



Hawai'i State Department of Education Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi participates with a 4th grade class at Keauakaha Elementary School in Hilo as students build and explore a 3D constellation using wooden beads hanging from strings. The demonstration

was led by Gemini's André Nicolas-Chené (not shown).



Gemini North's local outreach assistant Christine Copes helps an interested visitor build an origami cube featuring Gemini images at the annual Journey Family Science Day. The event, which attracted over 2,300 participants, is a partnership with the 'Imiloa Astronomy Education Center.

## Honoring Janice Harvey, a Gemini "Shining Star!"

At the annual Hawai'i Island, and Japanese Chamber of Commerces' Journey celebration, attended by a record number of Journey participants and local businesses, Gemini North's Community Outreach and Education Program Leader Janice Harvey received the Department of Education's prestigious Shining Star award (inset). In the photo, Hawai'i State Department of Education Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi (right), and District Superintendent Valerie Takata (left) present the award to Janice for her hard work and devotion to the Journey program. The award recognizes outstanding service and dedication to education in Hawai'i and, as Gemini staff know, Janice's efforts are indeed stellar. We are especially proud of her seemingly infinite ability to share our work and inspire the future of students.

— Peter Michaud



For his presentation at Hilo High School, Gemini Director Markus Kissler-Patig discusses how, when looking for life in outer space, we might first look at Earth's own extreme life forms.



Gemini North's Public Information and Outreach Manager Peter Michaud enlightens 6th graders at Hilo Union Elementary School as they design and build simple spectrometers to explore light.

Gemini science operations specialist Michael Hoenig uses an infrared camera at a 5th grade class at Hilo's De Silva Elementary School to demonstrate how astronomers observe the universe in different types of light.

