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High-Intensity Workshop to Deliver High-Impact Astronomy to Students

CHICAGO, IL—Forty years ago, during the height of the space race, the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum and the National Science Foundation created the **Astro-Science Workshop (ASW)** to encourage young students to pursue careers in science. Today, the **ASW** strives toward this same goal by offering high school students the unique opportunity to work with real telescopes and data.

Over the four weekends of June 2004, Chicago area students enrolled in the **Astro-Science Workshop** will work alongside some of the world's finest professional astronomers.

This year's **ASW** features collisions between bodies in the Solar System and the consequences of these impacts. Sessions at the Adler Planetarium will prepare students with knowledge of general astronomy and the study of impact events. Students will also complete observational projects at the Adler's Doane Observatory and learn how to process and analyze the information they gather. A final project will involve a weekend trip to the University of Chicago's Yerkes Observatory in Williams Bay, Wisconsin, where students will stay onsite at a conference facility, see the world's largest refracting telescope and use telescopes at Yerkes to develop a final project.

Guest lecturers will introduce students to exciting current topics and unsolved problems in the study of impacts in the Solar System.

Lecturers include:

Alan Hildebrand, PhD:

- research Chair in Planetary Science at the University of Calgary
- with colleagues, established that the Chicxulub crater buried on Mexico's Yucatan peninsula was the site of the impact that killed off the dinosaurs.

H. Jay Melosh, PhD:

- professor of Planetary Science at the University of Arizona's Lunar and Planetary Laboratory
- researches the origin of the moon, which may have been created in a collision between the early Earth and a Mars-sized protoplanet

Elisabetta Pierazzo, PhD:

- research scientist at the Planetary Science Institute
- models impact events on the Earth and other planetary surfaces and their effects on the origin and evolution of life

Donald Yeomans, PhD:

- Manager of the Near Earth Object (NEO) Program Office at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory
- locates potentially hazardous asteroids that may be on a collision course with the Earth

The **Astro-Science Workshop** will meet at the Adler Planetarium on **Friday evenings and Saturdays, June 4-19**, and at the University of Chicago's Yerkes Observatory in Williams Bay, Wisconsin between **June 24-27**. Students admitted to the **ASW** are required to pay a \$50 registration fee (waiver available) to help cover the cost of program materials, food & lodging, and transportation. Following the program, the ASW will award over \$2,000 in scholarships to three program participants who demonstrate promise and excellence.

Applicants: Must be current high school sophomore or junior (grades 10-11) and demonstrate an aptitude and interest in astronomy and related sciences. For more information or to complete an online

application form, go to www.adlerplanetarium.org/astroscience or call Andy Puckett at 312.322.0822. Application deadline is **May 7, 2004**.

While the Astro-Science Workshop seeks students interested in astronomy and science, students studying other fields can greatly benefit from such a program and are encouraged to apply.

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum

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The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum, America's first planetarium, has inspired more than 35 million visitors since its opening in 1930. Nine state-of-the-art exhibition galleries located in the stunning Sky Pavilion present modern space exploration and the history of astronomy. The world's first StarRider Theater, the most technologically advanced, audience-interactive planetarium, features virtual flights through the cosmos. The Adler's mission to present the human quest to better understand the Universe is led by our scientists and historians, working at the forefront of research in astronomy and its fascinating history.

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