PSGC Apollo 11 50th Anniversary Rocket Launch: Multi-level Engagement

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2019 Mid-Atlantic Space Grant Consortia Meeting
Penn State Apollo 11 50th Anniversary Rocket Launch:

- Held on July 16th, 2019
- Over 250 participants
  - Attendees, student volunteers, staff, and faculty
- Over 230 rockets launched
  - 24 simultaneously launched at 9:32 AM
  - 120 rockets built on-site
  - 80 non-motorized launches
- 14 STEM exhibits / demos

Photo credit: Randall Bock
NASA Education Strategic Framework: Categories of Involvement

- Inspire
- Engage
- Educate
- Employ
Inspire:
Achieved by:
• Simultaneous rocket launch @ 9:32 AM
• Broad and designed to resonate with all attendees

Photo credit: Randall Bock
Engage:

Achieved by:

- Hands-on rocket building, decorating, and launching
- Participants were strategically targeted and identified

Photo credit: Randall Bock, Patrick Mansell
Educate:

- PSGC-funded student groups
- Learning from formal curriculum and peer-to-peer mentorship
- Gaining experience sharing their projects to wide range of audiences
Employ:

- PSGC fellows
- Targeted development of individuals who are preparing for employment in NASA-related disciplines

Photo credit: Francisco Tutella, James Leavy
Goals and Results:

- To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission
- To provide STEM outreach and education to the public

1: Not met
3: Sufficiently met
5: Exceeded expectations

Average score: 4.60
RESPONSES TO "WHAT ELEMENT(S) OF THE EVENT DID YOU LIKE THE MOST?"

Photo booth / balloons 7%
Everything was great 7%
Pasto Museum / Astronaut food 4%
STEM Tables / booths 9%
Rocket Launch 40%
Building / Decorating / launching the rockets 21%
Other 12%
Everything was great 7%
Photo credit: Randall Bock
NASA Education Goals:

• Strengthening NASA and the Nation’s future workforce
• Attracting and retaining students in STEM disciplines
• Engaging Americans in NASA’s mission

In conclusion, not only could all four categories of involvement of the education strategic framework be seen, but...

• they came together to form a collective learning opportunity for all ages
• It aligned the event with NASA’s education goals
• Provided inspiration that will fuel the future STEM workforce