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SPACE OUTREACH PROGRAMS USING A DIGITAL PLANETARIUM

Abstract

An innovative space outreach program is opening the universe to thousands of students and teachers using sophisticated projection immersive environment in a portable planetarium dome. The inflatable dome used in the program is a standard planetarium dome designed to hold approximately 30-35 students and used digital projection technology. The portable dome and interactive programs were designed to motivate youth to want to become astronauts and/or assist in solving the challenges in transporting and supporting humans in space and creating products for the next generation of scientists and engineers. During the lecture we will discuss innovative methods to simulate the universe inside the classroom, using a digital planetarium and cutting edge technologies. We will also discuss the next generation of planetarium simulators, enabling natural movement through space and interaction in both the virtual and physical space simultaneously. We will present our science outreach planetarium programs for students and the general public.