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Dr. Majid Jaraiedi
Director
NASA West Virginia Space Grant Consortium
G-68 ESB
P.O. Box 6070
Morgantown, WV 26506-6070

Dr. Jaraiedi,

Reach for the Stars is a program that will reach more than 630 students in grades K-6 at Petersburg Elementary School and their families. This program will train teachers, provide opportunities for student experimentation, involve participation by parents, and utilize partnerships with community experts.

Through Reach for the Stars, teachers and community partners will be trained to fully utilize the existing optical telescope that was purchased with grant funding and is housed at Petersburg Elementary School. After this training has been established, students and parents will be invited to participate in learning workshops one evening each month.

The natural progression of Reach for the Stars will include the formation of an astronomy club with members of all ages. This organized, student-driven, teacher-guided instruction will provide ongoing, extended-hour learning opportunities to all grade levels.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Colaw
Project RIGHT2 Coordinator
Reach for the Stars
485-462-8349
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www.right2.edu

Name: Petersburg Elementary School

Address: Petersburg Elementary School
333 Rig St.
Petersburg, WV 26847-1644
(PH) 485-462-8349
www.right2.edu

Project name: Reach for the Stars

Reason for grant: An optical telescope was purchased with earlier grant funding and is currently housed at the school; however, additional funding is now required to train teachers and community partners and to pay for books, software, and field trip expenses so students and community can utilize and benefit from the equipment.

Grant request: \$5,610

Tax status: Petersburg Elementary School is a public school and is tax-exempt.

Total project budget: \$10,560

Dates covered by budget: One calendar year

Director: Julie Colaw, Project RIGHT2 Coordinator
julie@right2.edu

Reach for the Stars
Petersburg Elementary School
333 Rig St.
Petersburg, WV 26847-1644

(PH) 485-462-8349



PROJECT

REACH FOR THE STARS

Prepared for: Dr. Majid Jaraiedi
Director, NASA West Virginia Space Grant Consortium

Prepared by: Julie Colaw
Project RIGHT2 Coordinator

DESCRIPTION

Through Reach for the Stars, teachers and community partners will be trained to fully utilize the optical telescope that was purchased previously with grant funding and is now housed at Petersburg Elementary School. After this training has been established, students and parents will be invited to participate in learning workshops one evening each month.

The natural progression of Reach for the Stars will include the formation of an astronomy club with members of all ages. This organized, student-driven, teacher-guided instruction will provide ongoing, extended-hour learning opportunities to all grade levels.

 www.right2.edu

Proposal Number: 43-321



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The primary goal of Reach for the Stars is to help prepare students to live and work in a world that is increasingly scientific and technical in nature. Reach for the Stars will provide training and support for teachers as well as increased opportunities for inquiry-based science instruction. The use of speakers, field trips, and hands-on activities will provide students with the opportunity to aggressively explore the link between space science and technology.

Reach for the Stars student activities will address, at the appropriate grade levels, the West Virginia Instructional Goals and Objectives, National Education Goals, National Science Education Standards, and the International Society for Technology in Education Standards. Teachers will be provided with resources to supplement their current curriculum through WVU/NASA Ames IV & V Facility offerings and training provided by the staff at Greenbank National Radio Astronomy Observatory. Internet-based resources will be identified, compiled, and presented to staff by the Project RIGHT2 (Reaching Instructional Goals with Hi-Tech Tools) coordinator.

Reach for the Stars will involve parents and community members as partners in the education process by utilizing their skills and knowledge to support the development of a junior astronomers club. Community leaders have committed to provide leadership and support in this exciting endeavor to help our students “Reach for the Stars” both literally and figuratively.





PROJECT BACKGROUND

Reach for the Stars is a program that will reach more than 630 students in grades K-6 at Petersburg Elementary School* and their families. This program will train teachers, provide opportunities for student experimentation, involve participation by parents, and utilize partnerships with community experts.

Through Reach for the Stars, teachers and community partners will be trained to fully utilize the optical telescope that was purchased with earlier grant funding and is now housed at Petersburg Elementary School. After this training has been established, students and parents will be invited to participate in learning workshops one evening each month. Local astronomers and teachers will conduct these workshops, which will provide hands-on opportunities for students and their parents to explore the stars and planets of our solar system. Reach for the Stars will also provide opportunities for our students to experience first-hand various careers in space science through visits to the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia, as well as to the planetarium at Frostburg State University.

The natural progression of Reach for the Stars will include the formation of an astronomy club with members of all ages. This organized, student-driven, teacher-guided instruction will provide ongoing, extended-hour learning opportunities to all grade levels.

*Petersburg Elementary School is located in Grant County, West Virginia, which is designated as a 100% rural county. More than 60 percent of students at Petersburg Elementary School receive free or reduced-price lunches.





NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Project RIGHT2 has identified the following needs.

NEEDS:

An optical telescope was purchased with earlier grant funding and is now housed at the school; however, additional funding is required to train teachers and community partners and to pay for books, software, and field trip expenses to utilize and benefit from the equipment.

SOLUTION:

By providing training and materials to teachers and students along with practical hands-on experience and field trips to related installations, the students and teachers will be able to use the existing on-site equipment.

RESOURCES:

Volunteers with related field experience will cover approximately half of the costs required to complete the project. Additional funding is required to pay the majority of the material costs of the project.





PROJECT METHODS

Green Bank National Radio Astronomy Observatory staff will provide teachers, parents, and community partners with multi-faceted training. The first phase of staff development will prepare participants to fully utilize the existing optical telescope at Petersburg Elementary School. Secondly, STARLAB training will be the focus of attention so that our students can utilize the STARLAB during school hours. In this way, we can ensure that all students will have the opportunity to explore the vast expanse of our universe in an exciting and meaningful manner. Finally, Hands-On Universe training will be provided to interested teachers throughout our county. Software necessary to support trained teachers will be purchased as part of this project.

James Goodman and Arthur Madson, prominent members of the community who have volunteered their time and expertise to support this project, have both agreed to come into the classroom and provide astronomy-related, hands-on activities and to assist with the astronomy club. Julie Colaw, math/science/technology instructor and Project RIGHT2 coordinator, will provide technical support and assistance to all staff in utilizing the STARLAB, telescope, and computer software. Julie Colaw will also serve as the teacher supervisor for the astronomy club.

A star party will be held as a kick-off activity to encourage participation in the astronomy club. Students and their families will participate in an evening of star-related activities and have the opportunity to hear knowledgeable guest speakers. Learning stations, including the STARLAB and the optical telescope, will be staffed and available for exploration.









TIME LINE

DESCRIPTION	START DATE
Training for teachers and community partners	September
Star Party Astronomy Club Kick-off	October
Field trip to Frostburg Planetarium	November
Astronomy club meeting and activities	December
Astronomy club meeting and activities	January
Astronomy club meeting and activities	February
Astronomy club meeting and activities WV TEAMS presentation	March
Field trip to Green Bank NRAO	April
Astronomy club meeting and activities	May
Evaluate test scores and other data	Aug/Sept

YEAR-LONG ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:

-  Use of Hands-On Universe software by trained teachers.
-  Documentation of Reach for the Stars activities.
-  Media coverage of classroom and school-wide activities.
-  Presentations to Grant County Board of Education by students.

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