

# CASCA Education and Public Outreach Committee Report

January 2017 – May 2017

Submitted by Michael Reid, Chair

## Important Considerations for CASCA Board

1. Michael Reid will be stepping down as EPO committee chair at the end of his term this summer. A replacement chair will need to be found.

## Current Committee Members

There have been no changes to the committee membership during this reporting period. The current membership of the CASCA EPO Committee is:

- Chair: Michael Reid (2014-2017), University of Toronto/Dunlap Institute
- Julie Bolduc-Duval (2010-2017), Discover the Universe
- Jan Cami (2008-2017), Western University
- Robert Cockcroft (2014-2017), Western University
- Paul Delaney (2016-2019), York University
- Sara Ellison (2014-2017), University of Victoria
- Phil Langill (2014-2017), Rothney Astrophysical Observatory/UCalgary
- Lorne Nelson (2016-2019), Bishop's University
- Sharon Morsink (2016-2019), University of Alberta
- Magdalen Normandeau (2016-2019), University of New Brunswick

## Major Activities, January-May 2017

### EPO Committee Telecons

The EPO committee held group telecons on February 7 and April 10. Our next scheduled telecon will occur on June 5, during which we will discuss EPO outcomes from the CASCA meeting.

### Selection of New Westar Lecturers

The committee has selected 23 new Westar Lecturers, of whom 22 have accepted the invitation. As discussed in our previous reports, Jennifer West has been contracted to update the CASCA website to reflect the availability of lecturers. A new page has been created, showcasing the lecturers. The remaining step is to add a form to collect applications

from the community at large to host Westar Lectures. We will be ready to advertise this program for the 2017-2018 school year.

### EPO Session at CASCA Annual Meeting

The EPO committee have been working with Sharon Morsink and Erik Rosolowsky of the CASCA annual meeting LOC to plan an engaging EPO session. The LOC has invited Telus World of Science president Alan Nursall as a featured speaker. We are also vetting the eight applications for talks at the EPO session. We anticipate a stronger EPO session at this year's annual meeting than at last year's.

### Teachers Workshop at CASCA Annual Meeting

CASCA, in collaboration with Discover the Universe and CFHT, is once again organizing a workshop for local teachers during the annual meeting. On the date of this report, which is two weeks before the actual workshop, 26 people have registered to attend. We wish to thank the CASCA LOC for their support.

### Michael Reid Steps Down as Committee Chair

Michael Reid has expressed his intent to step down as EPO committee chair at the end of his term in 2017, after the CASCA annual meeting. The committee hopes to have a list of recommended replacements ready for the Board soon.

### Discover the Universe - Update

In the few months since the last report, Discover the Universe has offered a 3-week workshop for teachers and 4 different webinars for a total of 432 participants. We're also collaborating with science outreach organizations and parks across the country to help Canadians observe the solar eclipse on August 21.