The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter’s Lunar Workshop for Educators: 7 Years of Exemplary Professional Development for Science Teachers

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Introduction
The Lunar Workshop for Educators is a weeklong professional development workshop focused on lunar science and exploration designed for grade 6-9 science teachers, sponsored by NASA’s Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) mission and conducted by the LRO Education & Communications Team.

LRO’s Lunar Workshops for Educators have been held across the country in locations underserved with respect to NASA workshops and at LRO team member institutions.

Workshop satisfaction on a scale of 1 to 10?
Every single teacher rated the experience 10 or higher.

The detail, professionalism, organization, depth of knowledge, richness of resources, and infectious enthusiasm from all the presenters made this great.

This was the BEST planned and run workshop I’ve ever seen. The mix of seated and standing/active elements, the personal connections with NASA employees, the sequence of activities with brilliant scaffolding and how we figured out the science concepts for ourselves. This workshop provided me with a deep, thorough understanding and thought processes that will influence me every time I teach these concepts from now on.

Reach
363 teachers from 30 states and 3 countries have participated in this workshop.

Workshop participants reach thousands of students each year, with more students reach each year, as trained teachers share information, activities, and new updates with new students, year after year.

Teachers further share resources and information from the workshop with colleagues, administrators, and their communities.

Testing the Model
The Dynamic Response of Environments at Asteroids, the Moon, and moons of Mars (DREAM2) of NASA’s Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute (SSERVI) designed their DREAM2Explore teacher professional development workshop based on the Lunar Workshop for Educators workshop model. DREAM2Explore has received similar feedback and evaluation results, further supporting the efficacy of this workshop model.

I am so much more fired up and comfortable with this topic and now I have more resources to look for extra information if I need it!

For more information, visit:
https://lunar.gsfc.nasa.gov/lwe/index.html