31) Penn State In-Service Workshops in Astronomy

K-12 Education

Davey Lab – University Park

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The Penn State Inservice Workshops in Astronomy (PSIWA), inaugurated in summer 1996, consists of one or more week-long workshops for middle- and high-school science teachers and other educators. They are held at the University Park campus in State College, PA, in the heart of Central Pennsylvania. The Workshops are offered by Penn State’s Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics.

The Workshops provide a multifaceted experience in modern astronomy. They combine lectures on astronomical topics, discussions on their presentation in the classroom, examination of multimedia curricular materials (texts, animations, simulations, software), hands-on classroom laboratory experiments with inexpensive equipment, nighttime observing and use of a planetarium, and other inquiry-based activities. While one central instructor will guide the Workshop, guest presentations by other faculty, research astronomers, science education faculty, and secondary school Master Teachers are also included. The Workshops are very intensive, requiring a full-time commitment for 5 days (and even some nights).

We are happy to share our experiences and the best practices we have learned in > 20 years of delivery of professional development for K-12 teachers.