



SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society

Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award Final Report

Project Title	Exploration of Physics Careers
Name of School	Florida International University
Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Number	342
Total Amount Awarded	\$500
Project Leader	Edmundo S. Barriga

Summary of Award Activity

Sigma Pi Sigma wanted to show students at Florida International University that there are more careers than that of professor for students majoring in physics. Being in Florida, there is nothing better than to take them to Kennedy Space Center where they can see how interdisciplinary collaboration can accomplish what was thought impossible. Besides, Sigma Pi Sigma spoke to the Kennedy Space Center outreach department and there is the option for the upcoming fall semester to host a Skype presentation where the people from NASA would give information regarding internships and other programs for the students.

Statement of Activity

The entire Statement of Activity should be no more than three pages, and organized as follows.

Overview of Award Activity

The project started by months before the actual trip to Kennedy Space Center. We wanted to increase participation on the club activities from our members, so we told them that those who participated the most would be able to go to the trip. We saw an increment on the time a few student dedicated to the club thanks to this project. This led to more people being helped in our free tutoring sessions that the club held by weekly. Once we have selected the people we asked them to notify back if they would attend the event. We wanted to be 100% sure that the people say yes were committed to the trip as we had to arrange transportation and lugging. On the day of the event, the students were very eager and cooperative. They had to wake up in the early morning as there was a long drive to be done from Florida International University to Kennedy Space Center. On the site, the group was held together and explorer the facilities until the late evening. There students learn about space technology and the history of the space program. We also were able to take more people than the 10 students proposed at first due to a packet from the Kennedy Space Center that requires a minimum of 15 tickets to be bought.

Impact Assesment: How the Project/Activity/Event Met the Purpose of the Award

The event helped to raise awareness in the local community (Florida International University) and the physics students because students were motivated to be active in the club to be part of the club. The increase in active members impacted the size of some of the events and collaborations. Another way the local community benefited was in the increase of free tutors which helped students in the physics introductory classes. As a consequence of the increase of activity from the club physics students who did not know of either SPS or Sigma Pi Sigma started to become interested in both clubs. The club also had successful found raises to help with the costs of the trip and other activities.

Key Metrics and Reflection

Please answer the questions below. Please indicate if a question is not applicable to your project.

Who was the target audience of your project?	Physics Students
How many attendees/participants were directly impacted by your project? Please describe them (for example “3 alumni” or “10 physics majors”).	15 attended to the Kennedy Space Center
How many students from your ΣΠΣ chapter were involved in the activity, and in what capacity?	15 attended, about 22 involved in the pre-activities to the event
Was the amount of money you received from ΣΠΣ sufficient to carry out the activities outlined in your proposal? Could you have used additional funding? If yes, how much would you have liked and how would the additional funding have augmented your activity?	The money provided was enough to carry the proposed activity. It is word to mention that the club also fund raise for the activity.
Do you anticipate repeating this project/activity/event in the future, or having a follow-up project/activity/event? If yes, please describe.	We expect to have similar activities were we show students more career paths. However, there could be in other places and not necesarely at the Kennedy Space Center
What new relationships did you build through this project?	We know have the contact inforation of the Outreach office of NASA who gladly will provide information for interships to our club members.
If you were to do your project again, what would you do differently?	We realized if needed, the hotel expenses can be avoided if people take turn on driving back at night.



Student using a simulator in one of the facilities at Kennedy Space Center.



Students taking a picture with an astronaut.



Students as astronauts.



Students in the rocket garden. The rockets behind them were used in previous missions.



Students and the back engine of one of the Apollo rockets. In this facility there are also small moon fragments.



Group picture of students who attended the activity.