

# Journey Through the Universe

## Feedback Summary 2024



*Journey Through the Universe* is a local education program led by Gemini/NSF NOIRLab in partnership with the Hawai'i Department of Education Hilo-Waiākea Complex Area. The program promotes science education in Hawai'i schools grades preK – 12 and inspires students to explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields. *Journey* endeavors to foster curiosity and wonder about our Universe, and the cutting-edge research and technology in Hawai'i and beyond that is allowing us to understand our place in the cosmos like never before. The success of *Journey Through the Universe* over the past 20 years is evidence of the support from our local community partners across the sectors of government, business, astronomy and higher education.



### Evaluating the Impact of the Program

Celebrating its 20th year, from 5 to 9 February 2024, *Journey Week* included in-person classroom presentations, career panels and three public events. Additionally, Gemini's StarLab Portable Planetarium traveled to local prekindergarten through second-grade classrooms during the school year. This Feedback Summary is a collection of the data obtained from *Journey Through the Universe* teacher, *Journey* educator, and public surveys. Every year we collect and evaluate these data to find new ways to improve our program; we hope this summary will help to make the future of *Journey* even better!



## Journey Through the Universe Deliverables



### Connections

*Journey Week* establishes effective relationships between the community, STEM professionals, and local teachers and their students. Each year, the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce hosts the *Journey Through the Universe* welcome event.



### Scientific Literacy

Classroom presentations support grade-level standards and provide a space for practicing science and engineering skills. Students at Hilo High are pictured creating their own spectroscopes.



### STEM Careers

Career Panels and STEM professional presentations in classrooms provide opportunities for students to explore a variety of careers in STEM. Anniek Gloudemans, a Gemini Science Fellow, is pictured here sharing her career journey with students at Waiākea Intermediate School.



### Wonder

*Journey Week's* hands-on experiences for students and visits from the Gemini StarLab foster curiosity and wonder about our Universe. During this particular visit, students had the opportunity to make mini-robots and learn about engineering careers with professionals from NASA.

## The 20th Anniversary of Journey Through the Universe Reached...

14  
schools



160+  
classes



4383+  
students



120+  
teachers



## Journey Educator Results

*Journey* educators volunteer to visit classrooms during *Journey* Week and offer 45–60-minute hands-on presentations and/ or participate in career panels for grade levels 3 to 12. Sixty *Journey* educators participated in the 20th Anniversary of *Journey* and differed in their professions, as astronomers, engineers, information and technology services, outreach specialists, and more. Thirty-one *Journey* educators submitted feedback for their entire involvement with *Journey* Week. The *Journey* Team uses their valuable responses to improve the overall experience for new and veteran *Journey* educators.

### Journey Educator Workshop

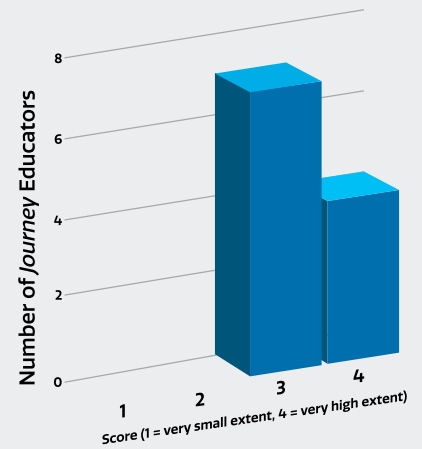
Each year, the *Journey* Team hosts a *Journey* Educator Workshop at the Gemini North Base Facility in Hilo. This workshop equips *Journey* Educators with the necessary skills and resources for their presentations and *Journey* Week.

### Overall Satisfaction with Journey

My overall satisfaction with the *Journey* program is...



To what extent were you able to incorporate something you learned from the *Journey* Educator workshop into your presentation? (N = 11)



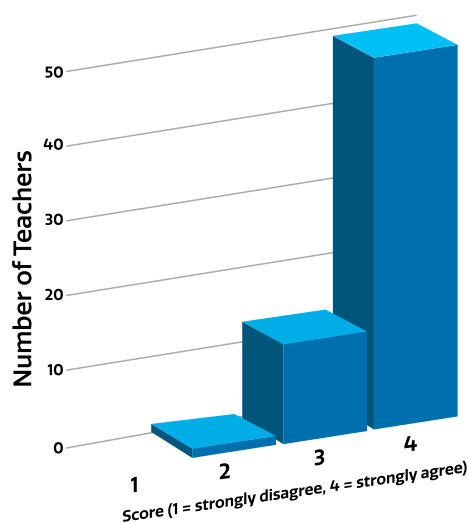
## Teacher Results

Every teacher is asked to complete one survey per presentation done in their class. The teacher feedback form was designed to obtain quantitative and qualitative feedback from participating teachers. Over 120 teachers took part in this year's *Journey*, of whom 62 completed the feedback form.

*"Our fifth graders had a wonderful time. Many came back the next day saying how they told their families about what they learned and that they got to touch actual pieces of the moon and Mars."*

— Fifth Grade Teacher

The presentation contributed to student learning in Space Science, Technology and / or Science as Inquiry. (N = 62)



## Student Results

Over 500 students completed a survey about their experience with *Journey* Week. Students were asked what they learned, what the best part of their experience was, and recommendations for how *Journey* could improve.

The following word cloud was created from a compilation of all students' answers to the question, **"One Thing I Learned Was..."**

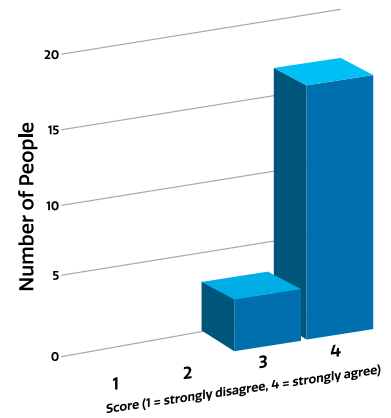


## Public Engagement Results

Responding to the desire for increased public interaction expressed in previous teacher surveys, the *Journey* Team organized two public events to take place during *Journey* Week. These included a public lecture, *From Hollywood to the Moon and Beyond*, and a free screening of the independent film, *Space, Hope, and Charity*. Following these events, 20 people completed the survey to provide feedback on Gemini Observatory's effort toward supporting community engagement in astronomy.



Please rate the extent to which you believe *Journey Through the Universe* has positively influenced your attitudes and perceptions towards astronomy in the local community. (N = 20)

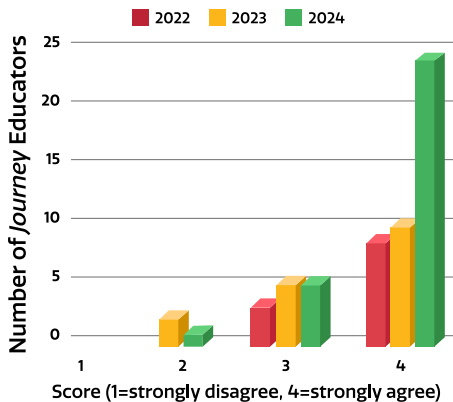


## Comparing Results

The results from the *Journey* evaluations are compared with previous years to measure improvement and determine the effectiveness of program changes. Based on the 2023 results, the *Journey* team decided to enhance the resources available to the *Journey* educators leading up to *Journey* week. This year, *Journey* educators were equipped with a resource library containing a variety of sample lessons. Many *Journey* educators utilized lessons from the library or expressed that it aided in developing their own presentations. Designing these additional resources, not only fosters a sense of support among *Journey* educators but improves the quality of classroom presentations and promotes hands-on engagement during *Journey* week.

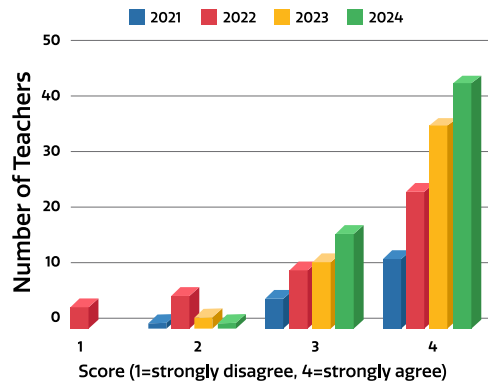
### Journey Educators

The *Journey* Team prepared me (logistically) to deliver my presentation.

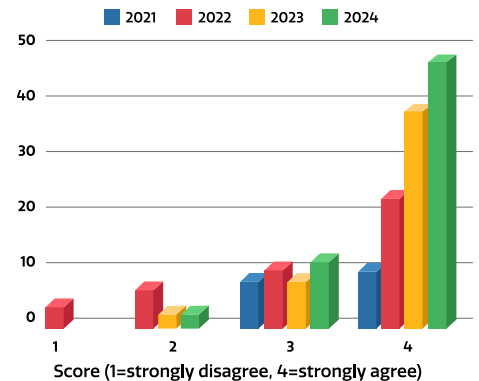


### Teachers

The presentation was appropriate for this grade level – content and vocabulary supported student understanding.



The presenter(s) successfully engaged students (students were attentive, excited and asked questions, etc.).



*Mahalo* to Everyone Involved!

Additional information can be found on the *Journey* [website](#).