

ROCKY FORK ENTERPRISE

Home	Communities ▾	News	Sports	Search	Search	Login ▾
SCHOOLS	LOCAL GOVERNMENT	MULTIMEDIA	SOCIAL SCENE	INTERACT	OBITUARIES	CLASSIFIEDS

REPRESENTING GLHS

Donelson, students to conduct research with NASA scientist

Jan 03, 2013 | Currently: 15° Light Fog



[Enlarge Image](#)

By [MARLA K. KUHLMAN](#)

ThisWeek Community News

Wednesday October 24, 2012 9:59 AM

Comments: 0 117

Gahanna Lincoln High School science academy coordinator Fred Donelson will boldly go where few teachers have gone before, thanks to being chosen for the NASA/IPAC Teacher Archive Research Program this coming year.

Donelson and some of his students will be mentored by astronomers to use true NASA-archived data to perform original astronomical research they will present at a national

[Explore Now...](#)

AdChoices

AdChoices

CALL THE EXPERTS

ors

ash & Gutter
t Contract.



Affordable I
614-471-6444
*DUMPSTER
NOW* *\$10 O
*CALL TODAY

Powered By **ThisWeek** COMMUNITY NEWS and [Columbus BizList.com](#)

Want to be an expert? E-Mail us today

American Astronomical Society meeting in January 2014.

"It's an unbelievable opportunity for the kids and for me," Donelson told *ThisWeek*. "I'm still pinching myself."

He said students would have access to data and analysis instruments that usually are reserved for top astronomers, and they will be trained by astronomer mentors on how to use them.

"They will work with teams from around the country, so they will have to communicate via the (Internet) and videoconferencing, just like real scientists," Donelson said.

"They will be working with real science data on current science problems. They will have to brainstorm and discuss concepts and theories with other students and teachers who are thousands of miles apart. Plus they get to present their findings to real astronomers, who will be treating them like peers, rather than high school students. Very few programs offer this type of experience for kids, and I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of it."

Each year, the NASA Infrared Processing and Analysis Center and the Spitzer Science Center take applications from educators across the country with experience in astronomy for the purpose of bringing scientific research into the classroom by conducting research with an educator team and a mentor scientist.

As one of only about 20 educators chosen nationwide, Donelson and several of his students will work with other educators and students to do original astronomical research in the coming year.

Donelson and his team will be mentored by scientists whose main research involves data gathered from extra-solar planets -- those discovered around stars outside the solar system.

"The study of exoplanets has really increased the past few years," he said. "When I first started teaching our space technology class, there were only a few known exoplanets. Now we have discovered over 800 extra-solar worlds, and as our sensing technology gets better, I expect that number to grow even more rapidly."

"We are now even able to discern some of the gases in their atmospheres," he said. "The fact that present students from Gahanna Lincoln can actually be a part of this pioneering science is a tribute to the hard work and efforts of past Science Academy students."

Donelson and his students will work with Dr. Steve Howell, project scientist for the Kepler Mission at the NASA Ames Research Center, and Dr. David Ciardi, a research astronomer at the NASA Exoplanet Science Institute at the California Institute of Technology. They also will team up with teachers and students from San Mateo, Calif.; Medford, Ore.; and Orlando, Fla., to actually do the research.

Donelson and the other teachers will attend a training session at the AAS meeting in January and then return to teach their students what they have learned.

Data will be mined from recent space telescope archives, such as the Spitzer Telescope, during the spring.

Two students will accompany Donelson to the California

AdChoices



Features



Home for the Holidays

Shopping, Christmas Tree farms, entertaining, events and more.



Healthy Communities

Learn more about health issues and what you can do to lead a better life.



Atlas Butler Awards

Awarding \$20,000 in scholarships this year! Nominate your student in grades 9-12 today.



Keys to Success

Profiling businesses that are growing in our communities.



Readers' Choice awards

Vote for your favorite central Ohio places.

Institute of Technology for about a week next summer to team up with the other teacher/student groups and share findings and make initial conclusions.

During the fall, students will statistically analyze results and develop poster presentations of conclusions and lessons learned. Those posters will be presented by the students and Donelson during the 2014 winter meeting of the AAS to astronomers from all around the country.

Donelson said he appreciates the support of the community and district administrators.

"Gahanna has great, hard-working kids," he said. "I just try to help them identify current areas of scientific need, try to point them in the right direction and get out of their way."

Comments

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post a comment.



Social Security Guide
ThisWeek's guide to your Social Security benefits.

AdChoices

Events Calendar

Jan 2013							>
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

[Today's Events](#)
[Movie Times](#)
[Events This Weekend](#)
[Find a Restaurant](#)
[Submit an Event](#)

AdChoices





© 2013 ThisWeek
Community News

[About Us](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Awards](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Careers](#)
[Pickup Locations](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Ad Choices](#) | [About Our Ads](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [Submissions](#)

Online home to 24 newspapers serving central Ohio

COMMUNITIES

[Bexley](#) | [Canal Winchester](#) | [Clintonville](#) | [Delaware](#) | [Dublin](#) | [Gahanna](#) | [German Village](#) | [Grandview](#) | [Grove City](#) | [Hilliard](#) | [Johnstown](#) | [Licking County](#) | [Marysville](#) |
[New Albany](#) | [Northland](#) | [Northwest](#) | [Olentangy](#) | [Pickerington](#) | [Reynoldsburg](#) | [Upper Arlington](#) | [Westerville](#) | [West Side](#) | [Whitehall](#) | [Worthington](#)

NETWORK AFFILIATES

[The Columbus Dispatch](#) | [WBNS \(10TV\)](#) | [Columbus Alive!](#) | [97.1 The Fan](#) | [BlueJacketsXtra](#) | [BuckeyeXtra](#) | [Columbus Savvy Shopper](#) | [Columbus Parent Magazine](#) |
[Capital Style](#) | [Dispatch Classifieds](#) | [Columbus CEO](#) | [The Other Paper](#) | [Columbus Monthly](#) | [Columbus Bride](#) | [CityGuide](#) | [Restaurant Guide](#) | [Columbus Visitors Guide](#)

