

LIGO “Inspiring Science”

by increasing Interactions with Scientists from the
Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory
LIGO Science Education Center



Matthew 7 yrs – Told his parents after visiting LIGO he wanted to be a LIGO Scientist, up to his visit he only wanted to be Spiderman!



Pre-K & Kindergarten Students listen as Valery Frolov, LIGO Physicist talks about light!

Our Mission

- ▣ To inspire the next generation of Scientists
- ▣ To encourage public support for Scientific Research and Science Education

We attempt to do this by:

- Exposure to a cutting edge scientific research facility
- Encouraging visitor interactions with Scientists (Which may encourage people to “think a Scientist is a regular person not with spiky hair and all” - a 6th grade student)
- Making science concepts more accessible via programs and exhibits.
- Engagement with Science through interactive exhibits and hands-on-activities
- Informal learning and exploration



Future Scientist?



Middle school students question Brian O’Reilly, LIGO Senior Physicist.



Riccardo DeSalvo, CIT Physics Professor explores with students



Nergis Malavala, MIT Physics Professor, explains to visitors how gravitational waves move the mirrors



Amber Stuver, LIGO Physicist answers questions from teachers



Joe Giaime, LIGO Observatory Director talks to high school students about the interferometer



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