

# PI LAUNCHPAD

## VIRTUAL SUMMIT

JUNE 14-25 2021

### Welcome & Intro

Erika Hamden  
She/Her





# About me

---

- Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Arizona
- UV spectroscopy, technology development, Project Scientist for a sub-orbital balloon telescope, FIREBall-2
- Submitted a proposal for a telescope, Hyperion, to the Astrophysics Small Explorer Announcement of Opportunity in 2019 as a new PI
- The process of getting the mission started was incredibly frustrating
- Very limited guidance or accessible information
- Support levels ranging from none to begrudging to enthusiastic
- Impenetrable systems at NASA Centers/JPL



# PI Launchpad Organizing Committee

---

Erika Hamden- UA  
Michael New- HQ  
Ellen Gertsen- HQ  
Kirsten Petree- HQ  
Paula Evans- HQ  
James Woodard- HQ

Tech Assistance:  
Andrew Schurr- HQ

Michael Liemohn- UMich

Paul Propster- JPL

Paul Propster- JPL



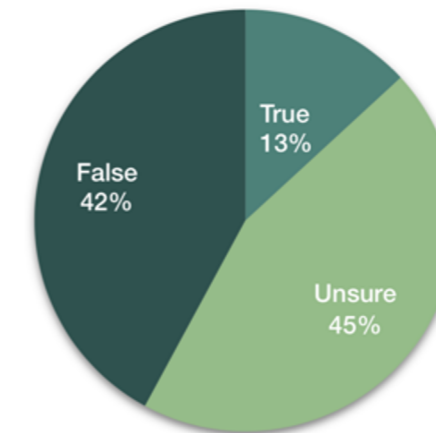
# PI Launchpad

First workshop in 2019

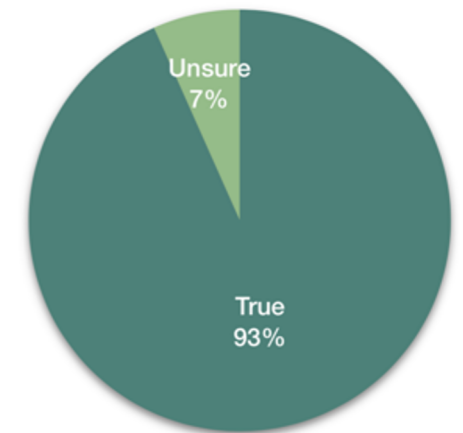
- Funded by the Heising-Simons Foundation
- 40 participants, selected via an application on NSPIRES
- 2.5 days in November 2019 in Tucson

I know the Next Steps I want to Take to Develop my Mission.

PRE-ASSESSMENT



POST-ASSESSMENT





# 2021 Virtual PI Launchpad

---

- Still funded by the Heising-Simons Foundation! Thank you!!
- Not a NASA workshop, but this would not be possible without NASA support across all of SMD
- Everyone presenting, speaking, on panels, and mentoring in the next two weeks is giving their time and energy to make the way easier for future PIs.
- 41 Attendees across all 5 divisions of SMD!



# PI Launchpad Philosophy

---

We know that the process of applying to missions can be fraught with individualism and competition. Our aim for PIL 2021 is to create a culture that represents the future we want to see both within NASA space mission proposals as well as more broadly. We are going to behave as if that future exists **now** by fostering an environment of collaboration and community care.

We want to affirm that NASA values are changing. One such example of this is the increasing use of dual-anonymous peer review for ROSES proposals and that diversity of teams is increasingly viewed as key to mission success. We want to be explicit in our acknowledgement of the difference between the values of this workshop and current NASA climate. The PI Launchpad seeks to create an inclusive environment based on the idea of abundance, not scarcity. The primary driver of our work should be finding the best science ideas and promoting them, and that an abundance of exciting, interesting science coming from a diverse group of scientists is beneficial for the community overall. While the mission proposal process and PI-paradigm encourage competition and secrecy, we believe that collaboration and sharing will yield better results and improve the community. Science is already a collaborative enterprise and being a PI should be one too.

This workshop exists to bridge that difference by creating a community that values diversity, empowerment of folks with marginalized identities, and community care as part of scientific exploration. While this workshop is supported by NASA, it is not a fully NASA-led workshop. As such, we are attempting to chart our own course and appreciate your patience, input, and collaboration.



# Code of Conduct

---

## **Participating in this workshop means:**

- We treat participants with respect, consideration, and in a spirit of collaboration.
- We approach the workshop, our fellow participants, and activities with a beginner's mind, setting an intention to learn something new from each interaction and not assuming that others know the same things we do.
- We communicate openly with respect for others, critiquing ideas rather than individuals.
- We share the air, paying attention to who is participating and taking a step back to allow others to contribute if we have been dominating the discussion.
- We share lessons learned at the workshop but do not share others' ideas without their consent.
- We recognize that intent does not equal impact, acknowledging that behavior can be harmful despite our best intentions.
- We encourage each others' ideas and utilize "yes and" language rather than "no, but."
- We respect the pronouns of others.



# Launchpad Logistics

---

- All sessions will use the same WebEx link that brought you here today!
- If you have technical issues with WebEx, contact Andrew Schurr at [andrew.d.schurr@nasa.gov](mailto:andrew.d.schurr@nasa.gov)
- If you have accessibility issues, contact Kirsten Petree at [kirsten.petree@nasa.gov](mailto:kirsten.petree@nasa.gov)
- If you have other issues, contact me! At [hamden@email.arizona.edu](mailto:hamden@email.arizona.edu)
- Videos on or off, up to you, but please turn on video during breakouts and networking. A PI Launchpad background is available in the google drive if you would like to use it.

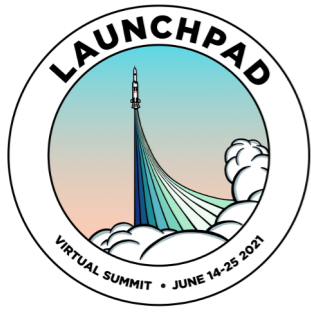




# Launchpad Logistics

---

- Talks and Panels will be recorded to eventually be posted online after editing, similar to the posted talks from the 2019 workshop. This has been incredibly useful for the community and aligns with the Launchpad spirit of openness and abundance.
- Networking and breakout sessions will NOT be recorded
- Chats will not be recorded, and you are encouraged to use the chat to post questions or comments as the talks are ongoing. For the panels, chats can be used to send in questions or during the Q&A time, participants can raise their hands to ask a question.
- Feel free to discuss anything and everything in the Slack channel!



# Launchpad Workbook

---



# Agenda Walkthrough

---



# Pre-workshop Survey

---

- <https://forms.gle/nP7jbcXi4JBjZ6568> (link in the chat!)
- Demographic questions are not required
- This will be used to assess the efficacy of the workshop and improve future iterations.



# Don't be like me!

---



Questions?

Thank you!!

