

# PI Launchpad Update

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Originally  
motivated by  
my personal  
experience

## SMEX 2019

- Incredibly frustrating
- Very limited guidance or accessible information
- Support levels ranging from none to begrudging to enthusiastic
- Impenetrable systems at NASA Centers/JPL

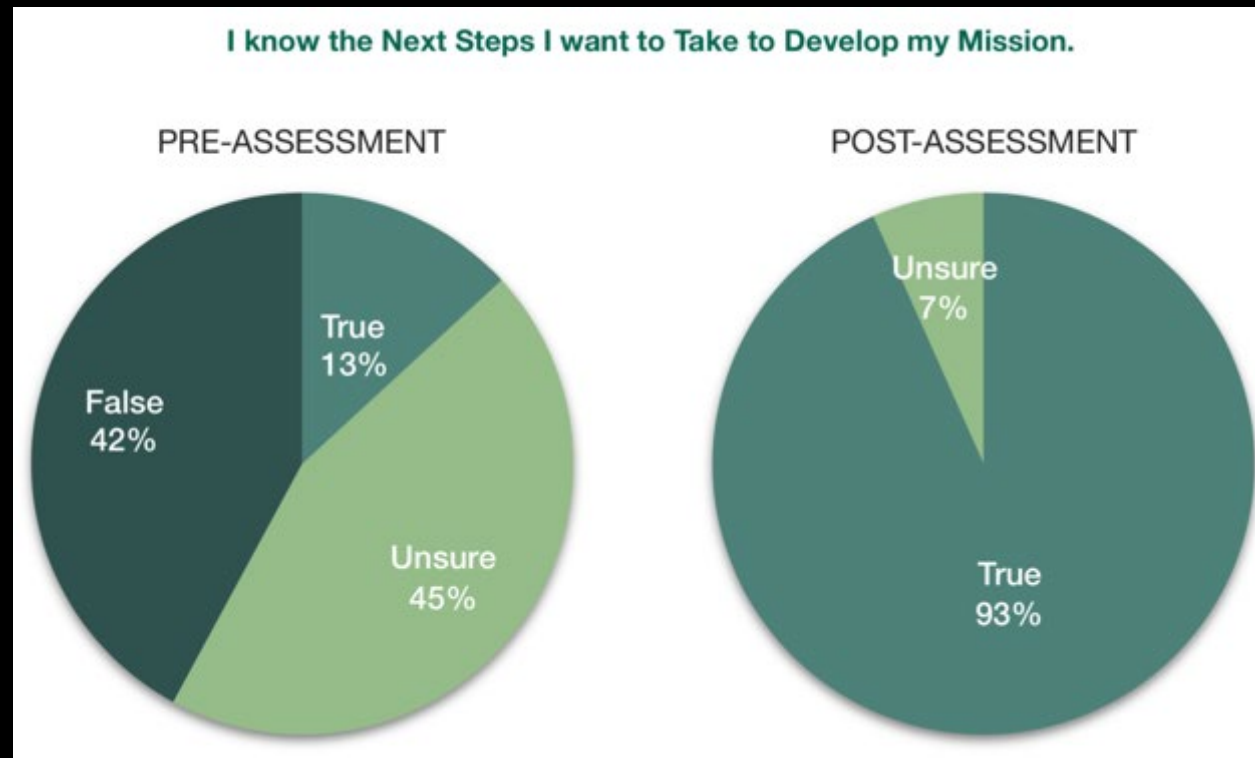
# 2019 Workshop

- Planned by myself, Prof. Erika Hamden, with Dr. Michael New & Ellen Gertsen from SMD.
- The Heising-Simons Foundation contributed around 100K, NASA another 30K
- We hired a STEM-Equity consultant, Dra. Nicole Cabrera Salazar, who provided assistance in creating the application questions, rubric, and agenda.
- Application (5 questions) was necessary since we wanted to fund everyone who attended to make the workshop accessible.
- 40 attendees, 2.5 days

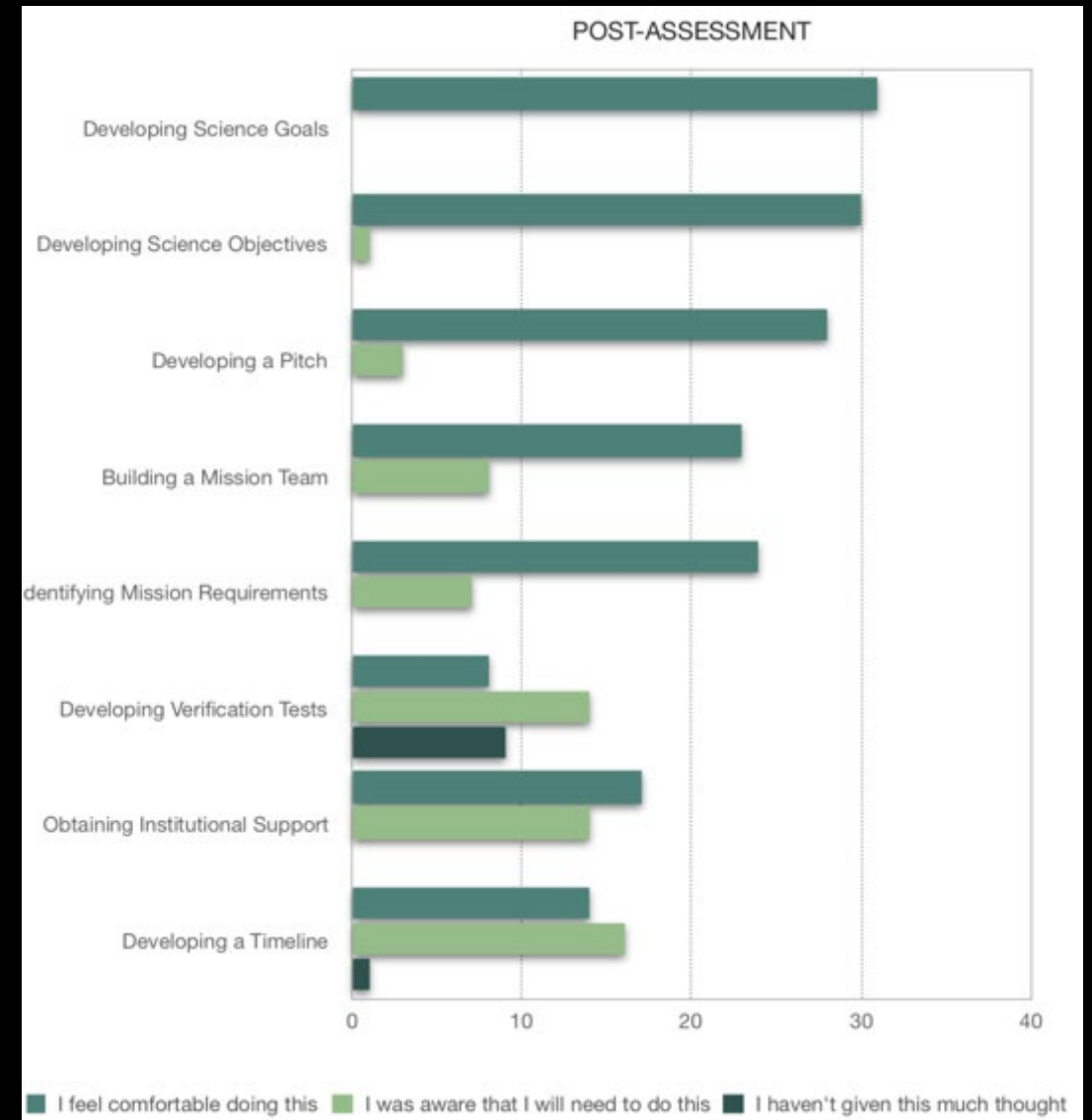
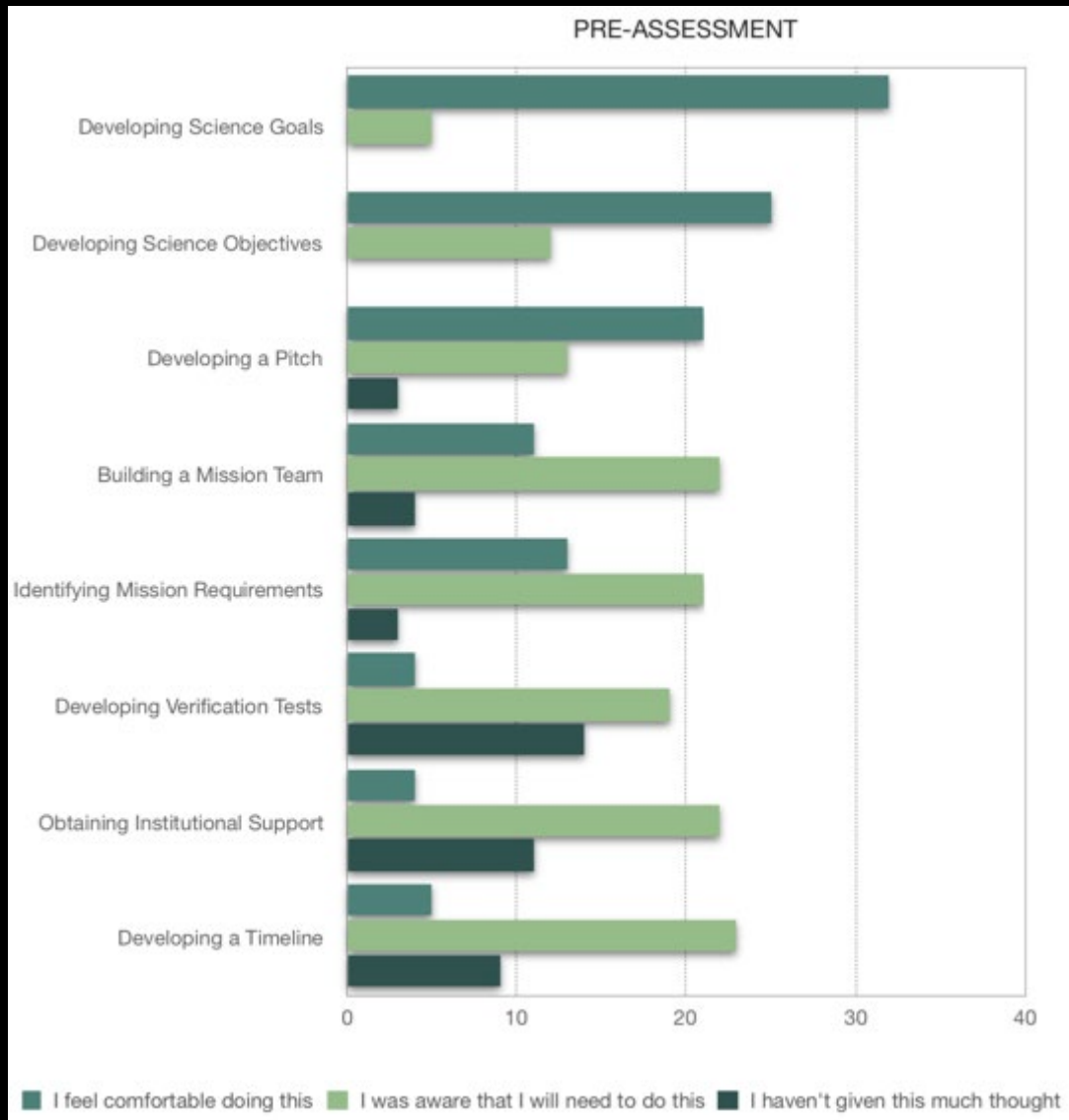
# Key Takeaways

- Participants were generally appreciative of the time and effort taken to develop the Launchpad
- Several participants noted that the workshop exceeded their expectations, especially in terms of networking, gaining the confidence to submit proposals, and demystifying the process
- 93% of participants said that the Launchpad was a good use of their time
- 86% of participants reported feeling comfortable, welcome, heard, valued, and respected
- Prior to the workshop, only 6 participants reported knowing someone in the industry that they felt comfortable asking to be on their team. After the workshop, this number increased to 26 participants.
- As a result of the Launchpad, 14 participants reported feeling comfortable obtaining institutional support, compared to only 3 participants prior to the Launchpad.

# Impact–



# Impact–





# For Researchers

[Overview](#)[FAQ](#)[Grant Funding](#)[ROSES Blog](#)[NAC Science Committee](#)[Team](#)[PI Resources](#)[Science Data](#)[Help & Support](#)

## PI Launchpad Workshop Content

### About the PI Launchpad

Are you interested in developing your first flight mission proposal but have no idea where to start? NASA Science Mission Directorate (SMD), the Heising-Simons Foundation, and the University of Arizona have teamed up to make this process more transparent and accessible.

In the Fall of 2019, the University of Arizona hosted the first PI Launchpad. This workshop occurred over 3 days, covering a range of topics relevant to mission development.

Attendance was limited due to budget constraints and many more people applied or expressed interest than we were able to accommodate. As a public service, we are posting all of the content developed for the PI Launchpad here. In addition to the workbook used by participants throughout the workshop, below we post videos and pdfs for all panels and presentations.

Any information contained in this or any linked pages is meant for general use and not for

### PI Launchpad

- > [PI Launchpad Workshop Content](#)
- > [Workshop Sessions](#)
- > [Resources](#)

# Launchpad 2021

- Now organizing a Virtual 2021 workshop
- June 14<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, via WebEx
- 10 days of content, only 3 hours per day, mix of live and asynchronous sessions
- Anticipating selecting another 40 participants- limited by number of mentors for a good small group experience.
- Applications due on NSPIRES on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- More focus this year on applicant pool diversity, especially recruitment from smaller universities/underrepresented populations
- Feedback from 2019 informing changes in agenda and scope.
- Updating participant survey questions to be more useful



# Application Questions:

- 5 questions focused on science, leadership, teams, decision making, and diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) work.
- Very similar to 2019 questions, but shorter responses requested, adjusted questions to be clearer
- Submit to NSPIRES as an NOI
- 2019: Nearly 200 applicants, 130 of which were compliant, 40 applicants selected. Assuming something similar this time.
- Review Panel currently being assembled

# Updated Agenda

- In process with input from a range of perspectives
- Virtual Networking is a key component
- Emphasis on science case development
- Sessions on Timelines, Mission Sizes, Storytelling, Quad chart development, the STM, partnering, roles on the science team, panel discussion with PI's, Panel on building a diverse science team, and Networking
- Workbook to be sent ahead of workshop

# Larger Team

Erika Hamden- UA

Michael New- HQ

Ellen Gertsen- HQ

Kirsten Petree- HQ

Paula Evans- HQ

James Woodard- HQ

Michael Liemohn- UMich

Paul Propster- JPL

Betsy Pugel- GSFC

Randii Wessen- JPL

Julie Breed- GSFC

Richard Quinn- ARC

Consulting: Movement Consulting

# Additional suggestions

- Additional study by inclusion experts on the lack of PI diversity across SMD and expert suggestions for improvement- NASEM study is ongoing
- Create an SOC and develop a funding strategy for long term sustainability of the Launchpad
- Possible development of a PI incubator- a longer term process closer to the Planetary Science Summer School
  - Over multiple weeks with work via webinar
  - In-person workshop as culmination of incubator
- Continue to post all Launchpad materials online for easy access by people unable to attend or not accepted

# Questions?

