

# Dayna Thompson

Planetarium Director

The Charles W. Brown Planetarium, Ball State University

**Education** CITI Certification, Feb. 2022

Adult Mental Health First Aid USA Certification, Jan. 2022

Diversity and Inclusion Certificate, March 2020

Cornell University, eCornell

Master of Science in Physics, 2012

Ball State University

Thesis: *Photometric Parallaxes and Subdwarf Identification for M-Type Stars*

Bachelor of Science in Physics, 2010

Purdue University Northwest

**Professional  
employment**

**Planetarium Director**

**July 2019 - Present**

*Department of Physics and Astronomy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN*

**Assistant Planetarium Director**

**Aug. 2012 - June 2019**

*Department of Physics and Astronomy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN*

**Graduate Assistant**

**Aug. 2010 - July 2012**

*Department of Physics and Astronomy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN*

**Limited Term Lecturer**

**May 2008 - May 2010**

*Department of Chemistry and Physics, Purdue University Northwest, Hammond, IN*

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**

**2006 - 2008**

*Department of Chemistry and Physics, Purdue University Northwest, Hammond, IN*

**Funded grants**

“The 2024 Total Solar Eclipse at Ball State,” Dayna Thompson, from the Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) and the Simons Foundation Total Eclipse 2024 Funding Opportunity, \$10,000, 2023. (100%)

“The Charles W. Brown Planetarium: Expanding Engagement Opportunities Through Space and Time,” Dayna Thompson, M. Isenbarger, B. Berrington, from the Institute of Museum and Library Services: Inspire! Grants for Small Museums, IGSM-251427-OMS-22, \$49,146, 2022. (100%)

“ASTRONAUT at the Charles W. Brown Planetarium,” Dayna Thompson, from the Indiana Space Grant Consortium (NASA), \$10,000, 2019. (100%)

“To the Stars and Back: Exploring Our Planetary Backyard - Summer Science Camp for Middle School Girls at Ball State University and Pre-service Teacher Field Experience for Multicultural Education,” S. Johnson, S. McDowell, P. Lang, C. Dowling, J. Bryan, Dayna Thompson, K.

Rodgers, from the Ball State University Foundation \$15,000, 2017. (100%)

"*Planet Nine* at the Charles W. Brown Planetarium," Dayna Thompson, from the Indiana Space Grant Consortium (NASA), \$5,600, 2017. (100%)

"To the *Stars* and Back: Exploring Our Planetary Backyard - Summer Science Camp for Middle School Girls at Ball State University and Pre-service Teacher Field Experience for Multicultural Education," S. Johnson, S. McDowell, P. Lang, C. Dowling, J. Bryan, Dayna Thompson, K. Rodgers, from the Discovery Group (BSU), \$25,000, 2017. (100%)

"GIS Data to Planetarium Dome," K. Turcotte, Dayna Thompson, from the Indiana Space Grant Consortium (NASA), \$14,818, 2016. (100%)

"*To Space & Back* at the Charles W. Brown Planetarium," Dayna Thompson, from the Indiana Space Grant Consortium (NASA), \$6,150, 2016. (100%)

"The New Charles W. Brown Planetarium STEM Activity Stations 2014-15," Dayna Thompson, from the Indiana Space Grant Consortium (NASA), \$7,350, 2014. (100%)

**Selected Papers,  
workshops, and  
posters presented  
(2018-2023)**

"JWST and the Total Solar Eclipse," Association of Lifelong Learners, Muncie, Indiana, February 2024. (Invited Talk)

"Astrophysics: Intro to General Relativity," Dayna Thompson, N. Terracciano, Curiosity, Confidence, Challenge: A Conference for Girls on Careers in STEM, Indianapolis, Indiana, January 2024. (Workshop)

"Awe & The Power of Visuals in Science Communication," Stars for All National Planetarium Conference, Kingsport, Tennessee, June 2023. (*Paper*)

"Awe & The Power of Visuals in Science Communication," Science Talk 2023, Portland, Oregon, April 2023. (*Poster*)

"Further Together: Finding Community Through Planetariums & Informal Learning Institutions," Dayna Thompson, Astronomical Society of the Pacific Summer Symposium, August 2022. (*Workshop*)

"Astrophysics: Intro to General Relativity," Curiosity, Confidence, Challenge: A Conference for Girls on Careers in STEM, Indianapolis, Indiana, March 2022. (*Workshop*)

"2021 IPS Culture and Climate Survey Report," S. Schmoll, Dayna Thompson, D. LeBlanc, The International Planetarium Society, 50 pp., February 2022. (*Paper*)

"What We Do Matters: Fostering Inclusion and Belonging in the Workplace," Dayna Thompson, 2nd Workshop on Astronomy Beyond the Common Senses for Accessibility and Inclusion, Virtual via Zoom, November 2021. (*Paper*)

"Featured Variable Star Shorts and the IPS," Dayna Thompson, Great Lakes Planetarium Association Annual Conference, Kalamazoo, Michigan, November 2021. (*Paper*)

"Masters of the Universe: Engagement," Dayna Thompson, J. Fletcher, M. McConville, M.

Smail, Dome Fest West, Costa Mesa, California, October 2021. (*Panel*)

“Challenges for Visualization in Immersive Planetarium Domes: Panel Session,” J. Faherty, C. Emmart, Dayna Thompson, R. Wyatt, A. Ynnerman, IEEE Viz Conference, Virtual via Zoom, October 2021. (*Panel*)

“Real People, Big Astronomy: Working in a Planetarium Panel,” G. Holt, R. Kerrigan, Dayna Thompson, Big Astronomy Webinar, Live on Facebook, October 2021. (*Panel*)

“Volumetric Models and Engagement,” Dayna Thompson, The e-Live, Interactive, Planetarium Symposium (e-LIPS), Virtual via Zoom, September 2021. (*Paper*)

“Grant Writing and Fundraising Panel,” D. Demeter, N. Gunter, Dayna Thompson, M. McConville, Z. Noyce, COSM’s LaunchPad Ground School, Virtual via Zoom, August 2021. (*Panel*)

“Astronomy Slam: The Update & Creative Constraints: Taking It Personally,” Dayna Thompson, Dome Dialogues One-Year e-Conference, Virtual via Zoom, March 2021. (*Paper*)

“Your Journey Through Space & Time,” Dayna Thompson, LSAMP Conference, Virtual via Zoom, October 2020. (*Paper*)

“Multidisciplinary Uses of the Dome,” J. Eakin, Dayna Thompson, A. Khazaee, International Planetarium Society 2020 Conference, Virtual via Zoom, August 2020. (*Panel/Paper*)

“Community Building Strategies,” Dayna Thompson, M. Smail, J. Wetzel, S. Fentress, International Planetarium Society 2020 Conference, Virtual via Zoom, August 2020. (*Panel/Paper*)

“The #YourUniverse Virtual Series at the Brown Planetarium,” Dayna Thompson, R. Williamson, II-WIMPS State Meeting, Virtual via Zoom, May 2020. (*Paper*)

“The International Planetarium Society’s Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee,” Dayna Thompson, D. LeBlanc, Dome Dialogues e-Conference #7, Virtual via Zoom, April 2020. (*Paper*)

“The Brown Planetarium’s Astronomy Slam,” Dayna Thompson, The Inaugural Dome Dialogues e-Conference, Virtual via Zoom, March 2020. (*Paper*)

“Astrophysics: Intro to General Relativity Workshop,” Dayna Thompson, R. Williamson, Curiosity, Confidence, Challenge: A Conference for Girls on Careers in STEM, Indianapolis, Indiana, March 2020. (*Workshop*)

“The Value of Education in the Planetarium,” J. Bishop, M. SubbaRao, Dayna Thompson, S. Shanks, Great Lakes Planetarium Association Annual Conference, Toledo, Ohio, October 2019. (*Panel*)

“Visualizing Experimental Cosmology,” Dayna Thompson, M. SubbaRao, Data to Dome Workshop, Hamilton, New York, October 2019. (*Session*)

“Data to Dome Day,” M. SubbaRao, Dayna Thompson, K. Davis, Live, Interactive Planetarium Symposium, Garden City, New York, August 2019. (*Workshop*)

“A study on vulnerability, power, and connection in the planetarium” Dayna Thompson, Great Lakes Planetarium Association Annual Conference, East Lansing, Michigan, Oct 2018. (*Paper & Poster*)

“Communicating With Your Audience: Tips to Presenting Live, Interactive Programming,” International Planetarium Society 2018 Conference, Toulouse, France, July 2018. (*Paper*)

“Data to Dome: How do we make it live and interactive?” Dayna Thompson, K. Davis, M. SubbaRao, R. Wyatt, International Planetarium Society 2018 Conference, Toulouse, France, July 2018. (*Workshop*)

“Fostering Future Scientists in the Dome” Dayna Thompson, K. Berglund, S. Schultz, International Planetarium Society 2018 Conference, Toulouse, France, July 2018. (*Workshop*)

**Fulldome  
planetarium  
productions**

“Variable Star Episodes,” Dayna Thompson, et al., 2021-2022.

“The Christmas Star,” R. Kaitchuck, Dayna Thompson, S. Sollars, R. Williamson, December 2016, updated 2021.

“Sunset Meditation,” Dayna Thompson, T. Hess, L. Mitchell, E. Hromi, P. Latus, A. McErlean, E. Peeler, September 2019.

“Educational NGSS Modules,” Dayna Thompson, B. Tilson, D. Brossard, R. Kaitchuck, April 2019.

“Juno @ Jupiter Modules,” Dayna Thompson, November 2018.

“A Satellite’s View: Intro to GIS Data,” Dayna Thompson, S. Vise, K. Turcotte, L. Mitchell, April 2017.

“Halloween: Celestial Origins,” Dayna Thompson, R. Hicks, J. Fillwalk, A. Kobitz, L. Mitchell, September 2016.

“Black Holes, Wormholes, & the Movies,” R. Kaitchuck, Dayna Thompson, S. Sollars, L. Mitchell, March 2016.

“Welcome to Our Solar System,” Dayna Thompson, L. Larson, K. Tynes, J. Conner, S. Vise, C. Snow, B. Conner, B. Short, M. Gabb, K. Skomer, L. Mitchell, February 2016.

“Tombaugh’s Planet,” R. Kaitchuck, Dayna Thompson, L. Mitchell, September 2015.

“Saturn & Beyond,” Dayna Thompson, M. Gabb, R. Kaitchuck, L. Mitchell, February 2015.

**Selected  
professional  
involvement**

Indianapolis Telescope Operator, NASA Live Broadcast, Jan. 2024 - April 2024.

IPS Board Representative for North America, Jan. 2020 - Dec. 2022.

Co-Chair, IPS Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, Dec. 2019 - Jan. 2022.

Member, IPS Education Committee, January 2019 - present.

Practice Committee, Cornfed Derby Dames, July 2018 - present.  
League President, Cornfed Derby Dames, July 2016 - July 2017.  
Role Model, FabFems Project, March 2016 - present.  
Technology Chair, Great Lakes Planetarium Association, July 2015 - May 2018.  
Member, International Planetarium Society (IPS), September 2015 - present.  
Member, Great Lakes Planetarium Association, October 2012 - present.  
Member, Museum Alliance (NASA), August 2012 - present.

**Selected  
University  
involvement**

Chair, Ball State Integrated Cultural Committee, March 2020 - April 2021, March 2023 – March 2024.  
Ball State Meditation Partnership, November 2017 - present.  
GIS Data to Planetarium Dome Research, 2015 - 2020.  
Immersive Learning in the Planetarium, 2014 - present.

**Selected awards**

Mentor Award, Great Lakes Planetarium Association, June 2023, for inspiring the next generation of planetarians

Special Award, American Association of Variable Star Observers, Nov. 2021, for work and leadership done on the Variable Star Planetarium Show Project

**Personal  
information**

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Charles W. Brown Planetarium  
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