

Dayna Thompson

Planetarium Director

The Charles W. Brown Planetarium, Ball State University

Education

Master of Science in Physics, 2012

Ball State University, Muncie, IN

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

Bachelor of Science in Physics, 2010

Purdue University Calumet, Hammond, IN

Minors: Astrophysics, Applied Mathematics

Diversity and Inclusion Certificate, 2020

Cornell University

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 Calumet, Hammond, IN

Undergraduate Research Assistant

2006 – 2008

Department of Chemistry and Physics, Purdue University Calumet, Hammond, IN

Funded grants

“*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,” Susan Johnson, Sue McDowell, Patti Lang, Carolyn Dowling, Joel Bryan, Dayna Thompson, Keri L. 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,” Susan Johnson, Sue McDowell, Patti Lang, Carolyn Dowling, Joel Bryan, Dayna Thompson, Keri L. Rodgers, from the Discovery Group (BSU), \$25,000, 2017. (100%)

“GIS Data to Planetarium Dome,” Kevin 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
(2018-2020)**

“Astrophysics: Intro to General Relativity,” 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, M. SubbaRao, R. Wyatt, K. Davis, 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*)

**Full dome
planetarium
productions**

“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.

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

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

“Pendulum,” Dayna Thompson, P. Cox, April 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**

IPS Board Representative for North America, June 2020 – present.
Co-Chair, IPS Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, December 2019 – present.
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 – present.
Ball State Meditation Partnership, November 2017 – present.
GIS Data to Planetarium Dome Research, 2015 – present.
Immersive Learning in the Planetarium, 2014 – present.
Cultural Corridor BSU STEAM Experience, 2014 – 2016.

**Personal
information**

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