



Blue Marble Space

Annual Initiative Reports
October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017

Blue Marble Space Institute of Science (bmsis.org) hosted 37 participants in the Young Scientist Program. We sponsored the 2017 Astrobiology Science Conference in Mesa, Arizona, with the second BMSIS symposium held in conjunction. Our research scientists received awards from the NASA PSTAR and Habitable Worlds programs, and the NSF/NASA Origin of Life Ideas Lab program.

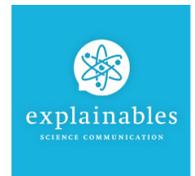


**Blue Marble Space
Institute of Science**

SCIWORDTHY

Sciworthy (sciworthy.com) brought on 7 new writers for a total of 10 volunteer contributors. We published two articles per week, plus the “Sciwordy” Word of the Day that teaches scientific vocabulary words through sharing graphics on social media. We also shared hardcopies of articles to teachers in the K-12 school system.

Explainables (explainables.org) worked on projects that included designing a museum exhibit, advising an advertisement company, and providing science communication workshops for scientists. The highlight of 2016 was our collaboration with NASA Frontier Development Labs, where we helped to communicate the latest advances in artificial intelligence applied to NASA-defined challenges.



GreenSpace

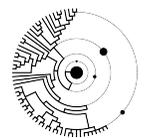
GreenSpace (growgreenspace.org) regularly participated in several farmers’ markets across Pennsylvania. Our market booth included a free grow-your-own sunflower activity table for children. School Science Expos, local Conservation Districts and markets allowed us to reach over 500 children in one year. We also published a sunflower grow kit lesson plan and workbook for grades 3-5.

Ad Astra Academy (adastra.world) hosted 5 at-risk teenagers in the summer of 2017 for a three-day program at Oakland’s Chabot Space & Science Center. We also were awarded grants to operate Academies in Bangladesh (serving 20 girls through a partnership with the Osel Foundation) and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (with our partner school, Instituto Presbiteriano Álvaro Reis).



The Wrinkled Brain Project (wrinkledbrainproject.org) partnered with National Geographic to develop two video clips on Mars topics for their ongoing Today I Learned web series. Director of Science and National Geographic Explorer Brendan Mullan was the Keynote speaker at the Tennessee Science Teachers Association conference and the New Jersey Science Teachers Association conference.

SAGANet (saganet.org) reached 2,115 members. The active Twitter feed reached 11,500 tweets and close to 1,900 followers, almost doubling since last year. The “Ask An Astrobiologist” series is now reaching up to 2,000 views for some episodes, while Facebook achieved almost 12,000 likes.



SAGANet.org



The New Zealand Astrobiology Network (astrobiology.nz) organised Spaceward Bound New Zealand for Youth that employed an indigenous system of knowledge called Mātauranga Māori, which is a holistic perspective to incorporating science into cultural knowledge. NZAN supported the development of New Zealand’s Earth and Space education curriculum for secondary schools and enabled collaboration with scientists from NASA and New Zealand.