

Geodome Planetarium Provides Immersive Learning Experience to North Dakota Outreach

Outcome: The Geodome is a portable planetarium system that traveled to K-12 schools throughout North Dakota to engage students in astronomy topics seen from both western and Native American perspectives. The dome is an immersive learning experience for earth and space science covering topics from earth's "self shadow" to the far reaches of the known universe. Short films such as *Tales of Mayan Skies* can be viewed in the dome.

Impact/Benefits: The Geodome project, which visits counties throughout the State, reached approximately 275 people in its first year in events that included viewing the universe in a portable planetarium. Not only are students exposed to western-culture space science and astronomy, but Native American star knowledge (including how native science is used to tell stories and transfer knowledge) is described. Students attain some insight into multiple ways of knowing.

Explanation: The Geodome is a portable igloo-shaped dome that inflates to 12' high. It requires the use of a gymnasium, or other large space, and can seat up to 20 middle school students. Set up time takes about 1 hour. The project is hosted by Dr. Timothy Young of the University of North Dakota Physics and Astronomy department. Dr. Young is an expert astrophysicist, theorist, and avid astronomer.



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