



W. M. KECK OBSERVATORY
Maunakea, Island of Hawai'i

December 2018

Aloha,

This year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the start of full science operations at the W. M. Keck Observatory - twenty-five years of unmatched technological innovation and astronomical discovery that has revolutionized our understanding of the universe. From the discovery and characterization of thousands of exoplanets, to gravitationally lensed galaxies at the far reaches of our universe, the Keck Observatory continues its mission to advance our knowledge of astronomy and astrophysics.

An equally important, if often unheralded, contribution made each year by the Keck Observatory is our commitment to education and outreach. We recognize that it is not enough to foster the leading science of today's astronomers; it is also our responsibility to help prepare the next generation of astronomers, astrophysicists, engineers, instrument designers, and technicians capable of building and operating tomorrow's great observatories. We challenge ourselves with an even broader goal: To inspire and engage students throughout the world to study science and engineering, and to consider careers in STEM fields. Finally, we understand that a world of people who share not only our joy for discovery, but also a basic literacy in the language and concepts of science is the best way we can contribute to a better world.

At Keck Observatory, we strive to innovate in how we reach and excite students of all ages. Examples of some of our programs and educational partnerships include:

- Our year round offerings to local Hawaii K-12 schools, with our astronomers and engineers visiting classrooms for demonstrations, and school groups coming to Keck for open houses and educational programs we host on a regular basis.
- Our new "Telescopes for Schools" project, through which we make available teaching telescopes to schools in need, and in partnership with college teacher training programs - such as those at Carroll College - provide open source curricula, lesson plans, and support materials to teachers at any school in the nation.
- The educational partnerships we are developing with institutions as diverse as the California Science Center, Explore.org, and The Planetary Society.

We touch the lives of thousands of students every year. Our ambition, through creative new programs, social media, and institutional collaborations, is nothing less than to make the Keck Observatory an inspiration for hundreds of thousands of students and adult learners each year!

I invite you to join us in making the W. M. Keck Observatory a beacon for students who aspire and dream by making a gift to the Director's Fund. Your gifts help us to continue to build the Keck Observatory's scientific capability, develop new resources with our partners for teaching science and technology, and send our astronomers into classrooms throughout the world either in person or via technologies such as Skype and FaceTime. All of this helps make the Keck Observatory an engine for education in astronomy and STEM.

On behalf of all of us at Keck, I thank you for your past support, and hope you will consider making a gift today. You may go to <http://www.keckobservatory.org/support/donate> to make your gift online.

With sincere gratitude,

Hilton Lewis
Observatory Director



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