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Realizing Benefits and Overcoming Challenges of Education Programs Associated with Scientific Research Programs

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This talk will report on the analysis of data related to an ongoing research project that specifically addresses the benefits and challenges of educational programs associated with scientific research programs. In particular, the paper will present the results of a survey of professionals who lead education and public outreach programs inside NASA space science missions and programs, and compare these results to a similar survey of AGU session participants and presenters that was made in the fall of 2003. The fall 2003 data showed clear indications of educational benefits that were unique to having a close association with scientific research programs. The data also showed clear challenges, many of which are being addressed via the rise of the new profession of bridge-builders who endeavor to match the resources and opportunities of the research science community to genuine educational needs.