

Abstract Submitted
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Double Star Astrometry for Inclusive Science KELCEY DAVIS, San Diego State University — A 2011 report by the AAVSO (American Association of Variable Star Observers), an organization for variable star astronomy with a membership basis focused on citizen science, found their membership base to be 92% male, with a mean age of 53 and a tendency to be well educated. Citizen science projects have a great potential for approachable science to target a more diverse audience for the future of variable star astronomy and the larger field. These projects not only create important scientific contributions but allow students opportunities in research experience. BRIEF (Boyce Research Initiative and Education Foundation) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which utilizes citizen science projects to create accessible pathways to astronomy research, targeting community college and high school students. Participants in the program are more than half female. This pathway provides access to important research topics and a chance for these students to publish peer-reviewed research. We report on information about the amount of students reached, including the number of peer reviewed papers to come from such projects and an example of student experiences.

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