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Abstract for an Invited Paper  
for the MAS21 Meeting of  
the American Physical Society

### **Teaching Physics & Astronomy in an Inclusive Environment**

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How do we keep our students interested and receptive in learning the concepts that we are teaching in physics? How do we know that they are retaining information? How do we get racial minority communities engaged in STEM fields? Learning is different for each student in our classrooms, in particular, communities that are underserved and do not have the same exposure to a STEM education. The lack of positive exposure to science in racial minority communities at an early age also impacts their perception of STEM fields as boring and nerdy. This could impact how a STEM education may not be presented in a way to make its application to them apparent. The result being a paucity of students from communities, racial/ethnic groups that have been minoritized. This workshop will present ways in which to bring astronomy to underserved communities, particularly children, so they can see how science and math can be fun if taught properly. St. Albans Under the Stars (SUTS), a community outreach program will be described and how to promote fun science projects in underserved communities, and assist in college readiness initiatives through a series of workshops designed to actively engage the student while "learning at play". A twelve-point checklist will help any community organizer develop and use data to maximize the impact on the community and possibly the world. You will learn how monitoring and evaluation can be accomplished through advocacy, communications and culture, periodic surveys, a database, etc. To engage your students, you have to show passion for the discipline. Make teaching and learning a joy for both you and your students. My motto has always been; play, create, and build.

<sup>1</sup>I will need a PowerPoint set-up. Thanks.