

Physics of Atomic Nuclei (PAN) Teachers 2013

PAN hosted 22 educators from all over the country during the summer of 2013. Professional development for middle and high school physics and chemistry teachers has the potential for the widest reach of all of the JINA outreach and educational programs. During the teacher week of PAN, educators are provided with a research experience in a world leading laboratory while obtaining a deeper background knowledge of nuclear science. The schedule for PAN @ MSU is nearly identical for both the teacher and student versions, although the former has an added focus on implementation in the classroom. For the first time, teachers also created lesson plans this year, for themselves and others to use in their classrooms. They also presented their experimental results on the last day via a poster session.

Based on surveys, PAN succeeded in increasing teachers' confidence and comfort teaching both nuclear science (see below) and nuclear astrophysics in their classrooms.

100% would recommend to other teachers and their students.

"PAN was a great experience that exceeded my expectations. I am walking away with a much better understanding of nuclear physics and ideas about how to apply the knowledge in my classes."

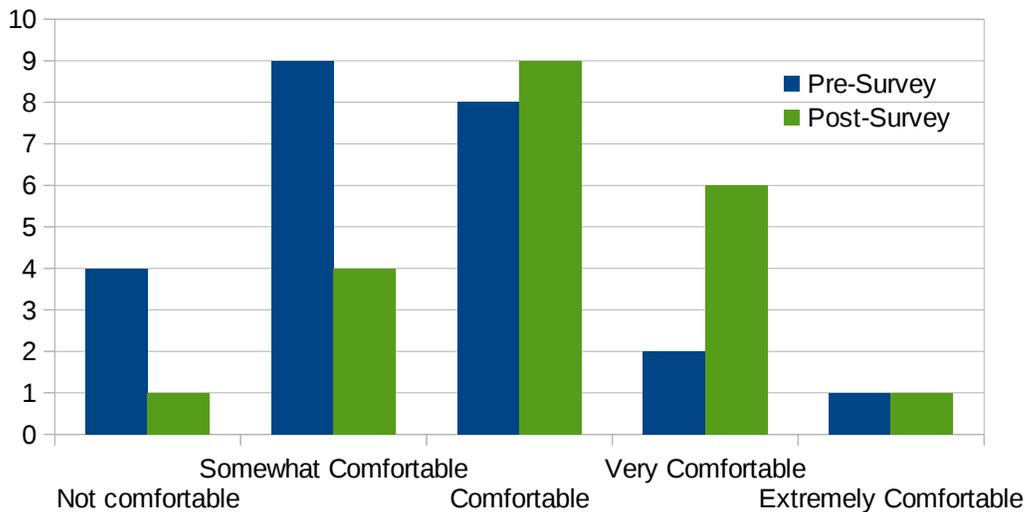


Above: Teachers use oscilloscopes to determine the position of neutrons detected by MoNA at NSCL.

Below: Teachers pose with MoNA



Please rate your current comfort teaching nuclear science



"I loved the access that we had to world-class researchers who came and gave us lectures. Having this camp here on-site allows for this kind of collaboration which you do not always get with professional development. I really enjoyed being surrounded by colleagues who asked great questions, too. I am really excited about nuclear science and am avidly working to incorporate it more into my curriculum as enhancements to our standard depth of material."

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