ASP Board Member Awarded AAS Education Prize

Donald W. McCarthy, an ASP Board member (and chair of the Board’s Publication, Awards, and Audit committees), was awarded the American Astronomical Society’s 2012 Education Prize at the AAS’s recent semiannual meeting in Austin, Texas. The AAS citation reads:

For his tireless efforts over the past three decades through the University of Arizona’s Astronomy Camp to educate and involve more than 1,500 students, teachers, and adults in astronomy and the scientific method using authentic inquiry; and for expanding the model internationally through the Tecnológico de Monterrey;

For encouraging numerous youth and adult campers to pursue science as a career, including several who now hold PhDs in astronomy;

For inspiring many students to pursue astronomy projects in international science fairs, leading to 11 National Young Astronomer Awards and seven finalists in the Intel Science Talent Search;

For motivating and mentoring numerous graduate students and Astronomy Camp counselors to pursue teaching with the best practices in education, including facilitating a sense of exploration and passion for astronomy;

For providing outreach during the past decade to the adult leadership of the Girl Scouts of America and providing a model for instructing Girl Scouts in astronomy and science inquiry;
The members of the Education Prize Committee hereby grant the 2012 Prize to Donald W. McCarthy (University of Arizona).