

ASTRAL Workshop

Intern: Joshua Sumagang

Mentors: Anne Metevier, Ian Weaver, Archana Aravindan, Candice Brown Pacheco, Jarred Gillette

Opportunity: Lick Observatory



During this four day workshop, I was able to gain valuable teamwork experience in a scientific setting through group projects and discussions on inclusivity. Our activities included mock proposals for image engineering projects which practiced creative thinking and communication skills and team projects setting up experiments that replicate an occultation observation event which involved practicing project management and teamwork efficiency. Also, I was introduced to the STEM professions of an astronomy observatory: telescope maintenance, telescope operation, and IT maintenance. Telescope maintenance involves critical-thinking and problem solving skills in being able to diagnose mechanical or software related problems very quickly and critical decision making when

prioritizing problems that are quicker to solve. The telescope operation at Lick involves working with various computer applications that control many different aspects including direction of the telescope and image processing- it also entails emergency response skills in reacting to weather conditions where the telescope operation must be halted and properly closed. Lastly, there are computer technology specialists who must be able to diagnose and troubleshoot problems that arise in the observatories computer infrastructure.

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Major: Computer Science

