

2020-2021 CRESST II Post-bacc Year

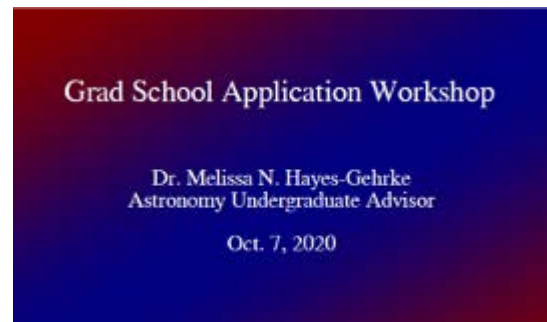
Post-bacc Program Welcome Event – September 2020

All post-baccs and their sponsors were invited to attend the inaugural Post-bacc Program Welcome Event. The event allowed the post-baccs to meet one another, learn about upcoming events, receive advice from past post-baccs, and ask any questions.



UMCP Graduate School Application Workshop – October 2020

Post-baccs joined UMCP students for a workshop on the graduate school application workshop hosted by UMCP Professor, Dr. Melissa Hayes-Gehrke. Dr. Hayes-Gehrke detailed how to decide what graduate schools to apply to, average graduate school acceptance rates and expectations, general components of an application, and how to decide which school to attend.



Goal Planning Session and Mid-year Check-in – October 2020, March 2021 and July 2021

Post-baccs were given the opportunity to receive a one-on-one goal planning session with Dr. Lee Mundy, the CRESST II Director and Professor in the Physics and Astronomy Department of the University of Maryland, College Park. The session allowed post-baccs to talk through their future goals and receive guidance and feedback from an established professor, researcher, and program administrator. Dr. Mundy and the post-baccs met again in March 2021 to discuss their progress in a mid-year check-in and for a final time in July 2021.



Personal Statement and Fellowship Event – January 2021

Representatives from the UMCP Career Center and Writing Center discussed in detail the format of a graduate school personal statement and requirements of applying for fellowships. Post-baccs left with a better understanding of how to structure a personal statement and received information on the several national fellowships available to them.



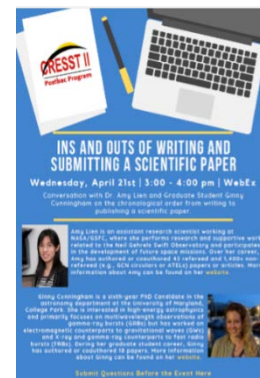
Career Path Panel – February 2021

Post-baccs as well as NASA spring interns and CRESST II affiliated university students were invited to attend the CRESST II Career Path Panel. The panel included four panelists who discussed the different paths they have taken with their astronomy and physics degrees. The invited panelists included representatives from private industry, defense, and NASA government contractors working in research and education/outreach. Students learned more about the similarities and differences of working in each sector and the many diverse pathways open to them.



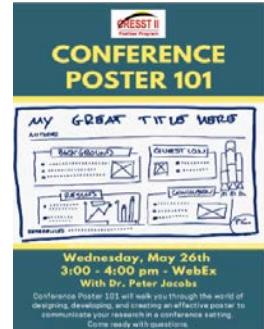
Ins and Outs of Writing and Submitting a Scientific Paper - April 2021

An established scientist and a Ph.D. student talked through the chronological order from writing to publishing a scientific paper. Post-baccs were given the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the paper writing process.



Conference Poster – May 2021

The event was hosted by a Public Affairs Officer in the Office of Communications who gave the post-baccs advice on how to design, develop, and create an effective conference poster by balancing their research with graphic design.



Post-bacc Snack and Chat – June 2021

Post-baccs were given the opportunity to submit any feedback about the program and give recommendations on the program moving forward. Post-baccs were also able to discuss where their next career step for the fall.

