

Cultural Institutions in Teacher Education (CITE) Partnership Adler Planetarium

PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW: As part of Loyola University's innovative approach to teacher preparation, Adler Planetarium has partnered with Loyola and other cultural organizations to engage undergraduate students in informal learning opportunities at the museum. At Adler, teacher candidates explore learning at the museum through focused observations and self-guided explorations to further reinforce the variety of approaches in teaching and learning and discover connections to their coursework. Adler recognizes that

teachers have the greatest impact on student achievement; teachers and students are valuable members of Adler's visitor population. To encourage students' interest and engagement in STEM, teachers need access to authentic science content and experiences to build self-efficacy in relation to science understanding and teaching. Adler will continue to promote programs that align to their mission statement: *to inspire exploration and understanding of our Universe.*

Adler Planetarium

TEACHER CANDIDATE ENGAGEMENT

During the academic school year, teacher candidates will:

- Explore Adler's offerings for youth, families and the general public, and examine the benefits of designed environments.
- Participate in museum exploration with a focus on learning theories and the shared connections between formal and informal learning.
- Reflect on who they are as a learner and how that impacts teaching.
- Apply theory to practice.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

Through the Learning Lab experience at Adler Planetarium, teacher candidates will:

- Recognize science-rich cultural institutions as community resources and understand and promote the connections between formal and informal learning.
- Increase self-confidence in relation to science understanding and teaching, impacting student interactions.
- Have access to Adler as a science community.

BROADER IMPACTS

As a result of the partnership, Adler Planetarium will:

- Have access to future teachers that evolve into museum-school advocates.
- Become learners, gaining insight and knowledge from pre-service educators who are able to bring new ideas and opportunities to the museum.
- Understand the changing needs of formal educators and tailor museum experiences to meet those needs.
- Gain opportunities for potential funding.