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**Fourteen State Library Agencies Selected as
NASA@ My Library Partners**

(Colorado– November 28, 2018) – In October 2018, fourteen state libraries were selected to become 2019 *NASA@ My Library* partners. They will receive resources, training and support through *NASA@ My Library*, a STEM education initiative that will increase and enhance STEM learning opportunities for library patrons throughout the nation. They include Alaska, Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia. They will be active throughout 2019 and provide support for the summer learning event called “Universe of Stories.” See <http://www.starnetlibraries.org/universe-of-stories/> for details. These 14 state library agencies (SLAs) will join Michigan, North Dakota, South Carolina, and Washington who were the original sites who helped pilot the project during 2018.

NASA@ My Library is funded by NASA’s Science Mission Directorate (SMD). Visit <https://science.nasa.gov/learners> to learn more about *NASA@ My Library* and the 24

other cooperative agreements SMD selected via a national competition to engage the public in space and earth science. Key partners for *NASA@ My Library* include the Space Science Institute and its National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL), the American Library Association, Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, Cornerstones of Science, Lunar and Planetary Institute, and other organizations.

NASA@ My Library aims to engage diverse communities in STEM learning, including communities that are underrepresented in STEM fields. The educational support materials and outreach opportunities provided are part of the STAR Library Network (*STAR Net*), a hands-on learning program for libraries and their communities (www.starnetlibraries.org). "The *NASA@ My Library* program advances public libraries as community centers and critical hubs for lifelong learning," said Project Director Paul Dusenbery (Director of NCIL and *STAR Net*). "It also help fill a gap in STEM education and engagement in rural and other underserved areas by increasing opportunities for hands-on experiences for learners of all ages."

Over the next 12-months this funding will support SLA partners in the following ways:

- **Professional development** –SLA staff will participate in periodic webinars and monthly calls. They will offer advice, share insights, best practices, and lessons learned from participating in the *NASA@ My Library* initiative. Staff will increase their interest in, knowledge about, and confidence in promoting earth and space science programming.
- **Enrich library experiences** – SLAs will engage space science expert volunteers in public library programming through NASA's Solar System Ambassadors and Night Sky Network. These connections will be particularly helpful during next summer's "Universe of Stories" events.

- **Hands-on Activities** – SLAs will promote and circulate multiple copies of two different *NASA@ My Library* STEM kits to public libraries in their state. These are designed for people of all ages with a focus on underserved STEM communities.
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The Space Science Institute’s National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL) (www.nc4il.space-science.org) is dedicated to developing and implementing projects and initiatives that improve formal and informal STEM education and the evaluation/research foundation on which they are based. NCIL works with national partners to develop STEM exhibitions for public libraries, science centers, and museums; conducts professional development for informal educators; and creates educational games and apps that can be deployed on websites, mobile devices (e.g. smartphones and tablets) and multi-touch tables and kiosks. *NASA@ My Library* is an initiative of the *STAR Library Network (STAR Net)*, a hands-on learning network for libraries and their communities across the country (www.starnetlibraries.org). *STAR Net* focuses on helping library professionals build their STEM skills by providing “science-technology activities and resources” (STAR) and training to use those resources. Over 8,000 library and STEM professionals have joined *STAR Net* to access its [STEM Activity Clearinghouse](#), [blogs](#), [webinars](#), workshops and meet-ups at library conferences, partnership opportunities, information about upcoming national [STEM events](#), and the *STAR Net* online newsletter. Partners include the Afterschool Alliance, American Library Association’s Public Programs Office, American Society of Civil Engineers, Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, Cornerstones of Science, Education Development Center, Lunar and Planetary Institute, and many others.

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