

## Range of SOFIA Outreach Responsibilities

### Education

- Flagship program: Partnerships of educators with SOFIA scientists & engineers, including research flight experience and national astronomy ambassadorships
- Other science educator professional development opportunities, e.g. workshops
- Production and dissemination of curricula & class activities; school visits
- Summer workshops for college faculty & undergrads to encourage research

### Public Outreach

- Public web site & printed materials
- SOFIA displays at public events (e.g. air shows); public talks
- Support for media science coverage of SOFIA (magazines, video, podcasts, etc.)

### Public Affairs (Public Information, Media Relations, Public Relations)

- News releases and media productions regarding SOFIA achievements
- Long-term relationships with media & journalists
- Support / training for SOFIA personnel regarding media interviews
- Informational contacts with local government bodies & representatives

### Science Community Outreach

- SOFIA exhibits & materials at science conferences
- Graphic arts support for presentations by SOFIA scientists & engineers
- Role in definition of First Light observations



## SOFIA - A Unique National Outreach facility

- SOFIA is the only major research observatory designed from the start to give non-scientist educators – K-12 teachers, college faculty, museum educators, amateur astronomers – familiarity with the processes of scientific research.
- SOFIA's routine operations will be like a high-flying ground-based observatory -- but, in terms of its scientific promise SOFIA is more like a space observatory -- calling for a substantial Public Affairs (press & media) function to inform the public that their investment has paid off. Note that many of the educator teams will be accompanied by hometown journalists.

# Kuiper Airborne Observatory's FOSTER program (Flight Opportunities for Science Teacher EnRichment)



## Two of SOFIA's planned education programs

### **AAA** = Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors

Teams of formal & informal educators

- Chosen from national applications, in parallel with GI cycle
- Partnered by SOFIA Outreach with consenting researcher teams
- Trained for involvement in flight series w/ research partners
- Supported by Outreach after flights to enhance local education

### **EP** = Earth Partners

Individuals or teams of educators

- Partnered by Outreach with SOFIA observers in their local areas
- Not trained for flights
- Could serve as prelude to AAA participation

GIs awarded observing time will be offered a menu of E&PO options including the AAA and EP programs

Current SOFIA schedule indicates these programs will start in mid-2012, although pilot versions may start a bit earlier

