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Scientist in the Classroom: Highlights of a Plasma Outreach Program¹ A. NAGY, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, R.L. LEE, General Atomics — The General Atomics education program “Scientist in the Classroom” now in its third year, uses scientists and engineers to present “Plasma the fourth state of matter,” to students in the classroom. A program goal is to make science an enjoyable experience while showing students how plasma plays an important role in their world. A fusion overview is presented, including topics on energy and environment. Using hands-on equipment, students manipulate a plasma discharge using magnets, observe its spectral properties and observe the plasma in a fluorescent tube. In addition, they observe physical properties of liquid nitrogen, and use an infrared camera to observe radiant heat energy. Several program benefits are; it costs less than facility tours, is more flexible in scheduling, and is adaptable for grades 2–adult. The program has doubled in coverage since last year, with over 2200 students at 20 schools visited by 8 scientists. Increased participation by the DIII-D staff in this program has been achieved by enlisting them to bring the program to their childrens school.

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Prefer Oral Session
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