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Fusion Sciences Education Outreach in the Middle Schools, an Unplanned Case Study¹ C.A. DANIELSON AND THE DIII-D EDUCATION GROUP, General Atomics — Before bringing a class to General Atomics (GA) for the DIII-D educational tour, the teacher is provided with pre-tour materials which include a videotape, curriculum notebook and fusion poster. These materials are used in the classroom to familiarize students with fusion concepts before the tour. This presentation will focus on the results of projects of 7th grade students of Chula Vista Junior High School (a magnet school for performing arts with a majority of Hispanic students). The assignment given by Physics Teacher Caryn Hoffman to her students prior to the tour was to focus on one or two of the DIII-D tour guides, ask questions relating to their careers in science and then prepare a presentation based on their interviews and their tour experience. The completed projects were very diverse – calendars, comic strips, newspapers, plays, and board games were some of the media the students used. Tour guides selected by the students ranged from physicists, designers and computer support personnel. Project results reflected a surprisingly good understanding of fusion science concepts. Subsequent classroom interviews with the students demonstrated an overall increase in science interest and a specific interest in plasma and fusion research.

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☐ Prefer Oral Session
☒ Prefer Poster Session

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