Family Science Nights: Exploring Life on Other Planets

The ENIGMA (Evolution of Nanomachines in Geospheres and Microbial Ancestors) project led by Rutgers scientists, launched its first interactive K-8 Family Science Nights entitled "Exploring Life on Other Planets", at the Greater Brunswick Charter School and McKinley School in downtown New Brunswick, NJ. Rutgers scientists involved in the Family Science Nights included researchers from Rutgers’ Astronomy and Physics department, Proteomics, and the Rutgers Geology museum. This project is part of a broader impact approach by Rutgers scientists to engage the community in science learning. The events were coordinated and co-sponsored by the Department of Youth Development, Rutgers Cooperative Extension and funded with support from NASA and a grant from AT&T.

- The Family Science Night events centered on a relatable curriculum for the whole family through five different astrobiology-themed stations.
- Students received a passport that guided their visits to each station and explained how each activity related to the main theme of Astrobiology.
- Scientists from the ENIGMA project shared their experiences with this exciting and cutting-edge research in the hopes of inspiring young scientists in research.