Voyages Through Time

Jill Tarter; SETI Institute
Yvonne Pendleton; NASA Ames Research Center
Edna DeVore; SETI Institute
Kathleen O’Sullivan; San Francisco State University
Sam Taylor; California Academy of Sciences

The SETI Institute, the California Academy of Sciences, and NASA Ames Research Center are developing standards-based curriculum materials for a one-year high school science course centered on the unifying theme of evolution. Scientists, teachers, curriculum writers, and media specialists are currently developing six modules that integrate astronomical, geological, and biological sciences as well as the history of science and technology. The sequence of lessons in each module will be designed to promote students’ understanding and skills as defined by the National Science Education Standards and Benchmarks for Science Literacy. The modules cover: Cosmic Evolution, Planetary Evolution, Origin of Life, Diversification of Life, Hominid Evolution, and the Evolution of Technology. The core lessons for all six modules will be provided via CD-ROM, including instructional guidelines, science background information, and additional resources (print, audiovisual, software, WWW sites, databases, and telecommunications projects). These products will be published as a complete set for use as a year-long science course and will also be available as individual modules for use in discipline-based courses. Evolutionary change is a powerful framework for studying our world and our place therein. It is a story of epic size, capable of inspiring awe and of expanding our sense of time and place. This story is the basis of Voyages Through Time.