Making the Sky: Astronomy in 3D
Workshop for Visually-Impaired High School & College Students

- On July 26 and 27, 2017, Dr. Kimberly Arcand, April Jubett and Kelly Williams (Chandra/ Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory-SAO) ran two workshops with 20 visually impaired high school & college students, along with three National Federation of the Blind (NFB) staff assistants at the NFB Youth Slam, at Towson University, Baltimore
- Students learned about stars and light before exploring the upcoming total solar eclipse with NASA tactile/Braille booklets on the Eclipse, "*Touch the Sun"*
- Sonic Astrophysicist, Dr. Wanda Diaz Merced, who is also visually impaired, demonstrated sonification of variable stars remotely
- Next, stellar evolution was introduced, with hands-on exploration of numerous NASA/Chandra 3D printed models (Cassiopeia A, SN1987A, & V745Sco), including tactile/Braille panels on supernova remnants
- Students contributed input to help improve the architecture of the 3D models for handling by blind and visually impaired audiences
- The sessions ended with an exploration of a new Lego-based tactile model, with input solicited from the students, as well as a general question and answer session

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