# 3-D Thursdays!

"Three-Dimensional" NASA Series for Rural K-12 Educators Educator Opportunities 
Networking 
NGSS Connections

### First Thursday of Each Month Upcoming: Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm CT/8:00pm ET

With hosts Rachael Arens, Associate Researcher at NASA/NAU PLANETS & Michael Guarraia, Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow at NASA

Have you been searching for ways to better support your neurodiverse learners? Join us as we learn about the NASA Neurodiversity Network (N3) that develops resources and internships for youth on the autism spectrum!

## **Special Guests**





#### Dr. Lynn Cominsky

Professor Cominsky grew up in the snows of Buffalo, New York, and attended college at Brandeis University, where she studied Chemistry and Physics. After graduating from college, she worked at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, analyzing data from the first X-ray astronomy satellite, Uhuru. When she found out that she could get paid for studying black holes, she went to graduate school in physics at MIT, and after getting her PhD there in 1981, she moved to California. She has been on the faculty at Sonoma State University for over 35 years and chaired the Department of Physics and Astronomy for 15 years. Her newest NASA project is NASA's Neurodiversity Network, which aims to develop resources and internships for teens on the autism spectrum.

### Dr. Ariana Riccio

Dr. Ariana Riccio, a Senior Research Associate at Education Development Center (EDC), conducts research focused on curriculum development, maker education, and transitions to employment and higher education for autistic adolescents and young adults. Riccio is particularly committed to participatory research design, which fully includes autistic researchers and community members in the design and conduct of research and program design. Riccio brings her expertise in participatory research and developmental psychology to EDC and employs participatory methods and collaborative co-design across her projects funded by the National Science Foundation and NASA, among others. Riccio holds a PhD in Developmental Psychology from the Graduate Center of The City University of New York (CUNY) and a BS in Biology and

Community Health from Tufts University.

Partner



