

Melanie Crowson is a professional astronomer who worked for a science museum in their planetarium and astronomy department for 7 years before attending American Public University to earn her bachelors and master's degrees in astronomy and physics. While there in college, she served as the Vice Chair of the national board of directors for SEDS USA (Students for the Education and Development of Space) and was the first woman awarded the Darrell Cain Award for excellence in leadership & inspiring students. Upon graduating, she worked for the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute for 5 years as their Director of Astronomy and Education, and is now adjunct faculty for American Public University teaching astronomy and physics as well as the Center Director for Mathnasium Math Tutoring in Cary, NC. Melanie loves helping students engage with astronomy, math and science and is honored to get to speak at the Astronomy Club of Asheville.

