

**Sabrina Stierwalt** (University of Virginia, postdoc)

Lee Armus (Caltech Spitzer)

Aaron (Evans)

Loreto (Barcos)

Hanae (Inami)

**Presentation Requested:** oral

**Category:** Assembly of Galaxies / Mass & Structure Evolution

**Question:** Other

**The power of multiwavelength studies to probe extreme modes of star formation in the local universe**

The nearby infrared luminous galaxy merger IIZw96 is a rare example of galaxies caught in the early merger stage of driving their vast reservoirs of molecular gas inward toward what will become the merger remnant. The system is reminiscent of the more famous merging galaxy NGC4038/9 (the Antennae) but is an order of magnitude more luminous at  $\log(\text{LIR}/\text{Lsun}) = 11.94$ . We present the results of a large multiwavelength effort to understand the nature of the extremely compact off-nuclear source that powers 80