3:50 Panel 4B: Education and Nano Environment (informal)

The Research Communication Continuum - Carol Lynn Alpert

"If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this [build a stairway to heaven], then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them." Genesis 11:6 – *Tower of Babel story*

The NNI funds the most accomplished interdisciplinary technology research enterprise in the world. However, its success depends on bringing clarity to a technical tower of babel. Specialists must make themselves understood to other specialists, to young students, financiers, the electorate, and policy-makers. A continuum exists in science communication training, from building competence in professional research communication among undergraduates, to coaching accomplished scientists in the art and craft of listening to and speaking to broader audiences - funders, media, community groups, and Congress.

This talk will introduce several scalable training models produced by the Strategic Projects Group at the Museum of Science, Boston, in association with nano research center partners at Harvard, MIT, Northeastern, UMass-Lowell, UW-Madison, and the NISE Network. It will also briefly explore the effectiveness of evaluation and dissemination efforts.

Carol Lynn Alpert is the director of strategic projects at the Museum of Science, Boston. She also directs the education outreach and science communication training programs for the Center for High-rate Nanomanufacturing and the Harvard-MIT-UCSB-MOS NSEC, and teaches a Research Communication Laboratory course for graduate students at MIT's Research Laboratory of Electronics. She is in the process of developing a scaffolded, peer-to-peer REU Science Communication Workshop leader training program with support from the NISE Net. She was a founding co-PI of the NISE Net.