

With ten years of funding from NSF, the Museum of Science, in partnership with the Science Museum of Minnesota and the Exploratorium, developed a national community of researchers and informal science educators dedicated to fostering public awareness, engagement, and understanding of nanoscale science, engineering, and technology. The project created: a network of approximately 600 institutions of which ~350 are science museums and similar ISE organizations and ~200 are university organizations; an online catalog of over 300 educational products in categories of programs and activities, exhibits, professional development materials, and media; and over 200 evaluation and research reports.

The principal vehicle for disseminating educational materials and professional development resources has been the development and distribution of 1,650 NanoDays kits to 468 organizations over an eight-year period, designed to be used during a one-week NanoDays event period in the spring, but actually used throughout the year for a wide range of programming reaching a total of about 1.1 million visitors each year. NISE Net also developed and distributed 93 copies of a *Nano mini-exhibition*, which reach 9 million visitors each year.

NISE Net has advanced a wide range of best practices or initiated new practices through professional development activities and published tools and guides on such topics as: science communication skills for early career scientists, universal design of exhibits and programs, societal and ethical implications content, public engagement and dialogue strategies, team-based inquiry as a formative evaluation tool, forming and sustaining partnerships between research centers and ISE organizations, and designing for bilingual audiences.

With nano funding at an end, NISE Net is engaging in a range of new topics, including synthetic biology, space science, sustainability, and chemistry through separately funded projects.

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