

“Preparing Students to Tackle Challenges Together”

The education and outreach mission of the National Nanotechnology Coordinated Infrastructure includes offering education and training to address the growing need for a skilled workforce as well as an informed citizenry. Additionally, the network works to provide resources, programs, and materials to enhance knowledge of nanotechnology and its application to real-world issues. This presentation will highlight some E&O activities in the network with an emphasis on how the NNCI is preparing students to work together on these issues. Nanotechnology’s interdisciplinary nature allows programs, such as the annual REU Convocation and student groups, to bring together students from various backgrounds who learn to communicate their work to each other. Outreach to K-12 students with an emphasis on current and future applications helps them to understand how they may apply nanotechnology to the problems they see no matter the STEM field that interests them.

Quinn Spadola is Associate Director for Education and Outreach for the NSF-supported National Nanotechnology Coordinated Infrastructure (NNCI), and Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Southeastern Nanotechnology Infrastructure Corridor NNCI site at Georgia Institute of Technology. Prior to joining Tech, Quinn was Education and Outreach Coordinator, and Technical Advisor to the Director in the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office. She joined that office as an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow in 2014 and stayed on as contract staff after completing her fellowship. She received her PhD in physics from Arizona State University in 2008 and MFA in Science and Natural History Filmmaking from Montana State University in 2011.