

CAISE Leadership & Diversity Fellows Program 2008-2009



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Program Description

The CAISE Fellows Program seeks to develop and support diverse leadership across the spectrum of the informal science education (ISE) field—leaders who, together, represent the diversity of our communities as well as the breadth of the ISE field. The program focuses on knowledge-building, networking, and mentorship.

Through its Fellows Program, CAISE envisions a cadre of leaders who:

- engages publics with science in innovative ways
- broadens participation in ISE in both the public and professional arenas
- collaborates by crossing geographic and specialty boundaries
- reflects on ISE, particularly in terms of bridging research and practice as well as the increasing need for evaluation
- leads organizations in ways that are highly regarded by the field.

Knowledge-building helps CAISE Fellows to build a knowledge base and technical skills in order to situate and execute their work within the broader ISE field. ISE leaders are more likely to innovate and contribute substantively to the field if they learn and share what they know about topics such as the value of ISE, collaboration, evaluation, innovation, audiences, and the research literature. In addition, leaders need to develop skills such as project management and grant-writing for themselves and in others.

Networking helps CAISE Fellows to build a strong cohort for peer-to-peer networking. ISE leaders are more likely to collaborate if they have a strong network of colleagues to draw on for new ideas, partnerships, problem-solving, etc. Such relationships should allow CAISE Fellows to build on the work of the field and contribute more substantively. In addition, CAISE Fellows are encouraged to build relationships with established ISE community leaders, funders, consultants, and veteran principal investigators.

Mentorship helps CAISE Fellows to identify professional development needs that are best supported by a one-to-one relationship with an established member of the ISE community. ISE leaders are likely to have a long-term impact on the ISE field if they have long term support to garner specific advice. In addition, CAISE Fellows are supported in understanding the nature of mentor-mentee relationships.

To provide a productive and concrete focal point for the year's activities, CAISE Fellows will directly apply their experiences from knowledge-building, networking, and mentorship by writing a proposal for the National Science Foundation (NSF) ISE program. While proposal writing is not the primary goal of the CAISE Fellows program, it does provide an authentic task for growth and development during the Fellowship.

Program Participation

Terms of Participation

Each CAISE Fellow (2008–2009) will participate in the following activities:

- Attend ISE PI Summit 2008 in Washington DC (July 25–26, 2008)
 - Attend pre-meeting CAISE Fellows workshop (July 24, 2008)
 - Attend end-of-meeting CAISE Fellows debriefing session (July 26, 2008) – This has been modified to a phone debriefing on August 15, 2008.
- Participate in Online Leadership Seminar Series
- Develop an ISE proposal as a primary work product
 - Mentors will review and provide feedback. – This has been modified to a Shadow Panel Review in which Task Force and Fellows participate in the process.
- Participate in mentoring sessions throughout the year (about 4 per year)
- Participate in online discussion forums (about 4 per year)

Schedule of Events and Key Dates

- **July 24, 2008:** CAISE Fellows Pre-Summit Workshop
- **July 25–26, 2008:** ISE PI Summit 2008
- **August:** Seminar 1 - ISE PI Summit 2008 Reflection and Program Co-design
- **September:** Seminar 2 - Grant Writing Panel
 - **September 18, 2008:** ISE Letter of Intent submission to CAISE or NSF. (The purpose is to start the process of becoming more familiar with grant writing and NSF. It is *not* expected that these letters will be submitted.)
- **October:** Seminar 3 - Collaborations and Partnerships
- **November:** Seminar 4 - Broadening Participation of New and Underserved Audiences
- **December:** Seminar 5 - Innovation/ Transformative Research/ Strategic Impact
 - **December 18, 2008:** ISE Full Proposal submission to CAISE or NSF.
- **January:** Seminar 6 - Proposal Budget Writing
- **February:** Seminar 7 - What Research and Evaluation Say about ISE
- **March:** Seminar 8 - Accessibility panel
 - **March, 2009:** NSF ISE Letter of Intent due date
- **April:** Seminar 9 - Cutting Edge Science/ STEM Content/ Science, Technology, Society
- **May:** Seminar 10 - Leadership & Management Practices in ISE
- **June:** Seminar 11 - Final Reflections, Induction of Next Cohort
 - **June, 2009:** NSF ISE Full Proposal due date

CAISE Knowledge-Building

Through a variety of in-depth learning activities, CAISE Fellows will build a knowledge base and technical skills in order to situate and execute their work within the broader ISE field. ISE leaders are more likely to innovate and contribute substantively to the field if they learn and share what they know about topics such as the value of ISE, collaboration, evaluation, innovation, audiences, and the research literature. In addition, leaders need to develop skills such as project management and grant-writing, and be able to develop these skills in others.

CAISE Fellows Activities

- **Fellows Pre-Summit Workshop:** The workshop facilitates a dialogue on ISE, leadership, and diversity as well as provides an introduction to NSF and the ISE program.
- **Online Leadership Seminar Series:** To support knowledge-building, CAISE Fellows will participate in a monthly seminar series. Each seminar in the series is centered on a topic of importance to the field of ISE. In some cases, CAISE will host the conference call to all that are interested (CAISE Fellows and others). At other times, the calls will be restricted to CAISE Fellows.
- **Shadow Panel Review:** Addresses skill-building by providing a mock panel that approximates the merit review process for draft ISE proposals. Written and verbal feedback will be provided to submitters. Fellows will also serve on the mock panel to review other proposals.
- **Online Social Network:** Supports knowledge-building by providing an online forum for sharing ideas, documents, and discussions.

CAISE Opportunities

- **ISE PI Summit 2008:** Addresses knowledge-building by providing workshops on evaluation, financial management, discussion groups on emerging issues and evaluating impacts of ISE projects, plenary presentation about innovation, collaboration, etc.
- **Evaluation Workshops:** Addresses knowledge-building by providing workshops on evaluation.
- **Proposal Writing Workshops:** Addresses skill-building by providing workshops and forums on proposal writing.
- **Online Leadership Seminar Series:** In some cases, CAISE will host the conference call to all that are interested (CAISE Fellows and others). After the call is completed, CAISE Fellows are asked to stay on for an additional 30 minutes to discuss the topic as it pertains to their own projects, to the CAISE Fellows Program, or to the field of ISE.

CAISE Networking

The CAISE Fellows experience lays the groundwork for strong peer-to-peer networking among participants. ISE leaders are more likely to collaborate if they have a strong network of colleagues to draw on for new ideas, partnerships, problem-solving, etc. Such relationships should allow CAISE Fellows to build on the work of the field and contribute more substantively. In addition, CAISE Fellows are encouraged to build relationships with established ISE community leaders, funders, consultants, and veteran principal investigators.

CAISE Fellows Activities

- **Ning:** Private social network to share ideas. Depend on each other, become a strong peer group; Buddy program. Sharing leads, contacts, relationships with each other.
- **Conferences & Meetings:** Fellows coordinate events they might be attending. The following is just a starter list.
 - *National Citizen Science Conference* (Providence, RI) - Meet ISE professionals with a focus on citizen science and public participation in research.
 - *National Conference on Science & Technology in Out-of-School Time* (Chicago) - Meet afterschool, youth and community program professionals who focus on science and technology education.
 - *ASTC Conference* (Philadelphia, PA) - Meeting science center professionals.
 - Christina, Hi'ilani, Ka'iu, John, Ellen
 - ASTC pre-conference workshop on ISE and Latinos. Meet informal science education professionals from across the spectrum of ISE who focuses on Latino audiences.
 - *National Association of Science Writers* (Palo Alto, CA) - Meet science journalists and writers.
 - *AAAS Conference* (Chicago) - Meet informal science education professionals focusing on public engagement with science.
 - *ISE and Latinos Conference* (Albuquerque, NM).
 - *AERA Conference* (San Diego, CA) - Meet informal learning education researchers.
 - *NARST Conference* (Garden City, CA) - Meet informal science education researchers.

CAISE Opportunities

- **ISE PI Summit 2008:** The ISE PI Summit 2008 will be a primary networking opportunity for CAISE Fellows to meet leaders from across the spectrum of ISE.
 - **ISE PI Summit 2008 Project Showcase:** To support engagement and interaction at the ISE PI Summit 2008, Fellows are asked to prepare a “booth” about a project they'd like to develop into an NSF ISE proposal. This will allow Fellows the opportunity to talk with and receive feedback from each other as well as current NSF ISE PIs.
- **InformalScience.org:** Supports networking by providing a web-based location for online profile and a network for connecting to others in the ISE field.

CAISE Mentorship

During the course of the program, CAISE Fellows will work to identify which of their professional development needs are best supported by a one-on-one relationship with an established member of the ISE community. ISE leaders are likely to have a long-term impact on the ISE field if they have long-term support to garner specific advice. In addition, CAISE Fellows are supported in understanding the nature of mentor-mentee relationships.

CAISE Fellows Activities

- **ISE PI Summit 2008:** Addresses mentoring by providing the opportunity to identify their professional development needs. In addition, CAISE Fellows meet and discuss issues with many established ISE professionals.
- **Bios and Project Descriptions:** CAISE Fellows write and post short bios to InformalScience.org.
- **Mentor Recruitment:** Given the bios and project descriptions, CAISE Leadership & Diversity Task Force recruits mentors.
- **Expectations and Guidelines:** CAISE will structure the guidelines and expectations of the mentoring program for both mentors and mentees.
- **Online Leadership Seminar Series:** Provides monthly opportunities for mentors and mentees to interact around a shared discussion topic.