



SENCER-ISE

SCIENCE EDUCATION FOR NEW CIVIC ENGAGEMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES- INFORMAL SCIENCE EDUCATION

Supported by NSF DRL #1237463

AUDIENCE

SENCER-ISE's primary audience consists of informal science educators and faculty members at two and four year institutions. Through the work done by its Civic Engagement Partnerships, SENCER-ISE's audience also includes K-12 educators, pre-K-12 students, undergraduate students, graduate students, and the public, specifically targeting seniors, citizen scientists, caregivers to young children, and "gatekeepers" who have an impact on the community decision making process.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

SENCER-ISE supports and evaluates cross-sector partnerships between higher education and informal science education institutions.

In March 2011, with funding from the NSF (DRL #1001795) and The Noyce Foundation, the National Center convened an invitational conference with participants from the informal science education and SENCER higher education communities. Participants discussed the feasibility of forming long-term partnerships over issues of civic consequence.

SENCER-ISE currently:

- funds ten Civic Engagement Partnerships,
- provides infrastructure support and consultation to the partnerships on evaluation practices and operational matters, and,
- disseminates to the wider educational community the results of partnership activities and resource materials related to evaluation outcomes, best practices for sustaining partnerships, and more.

RK&A and the Marian Koshland Science Museum of the National Academy of Sciences are collaborating with NCSCE and SENCER-ISE to provide services to the awardees.



CHALLENGES

The most notable challenge that we have faced during this project is the death of Dr. Alan J. Friedman, SENCER-ISE Founding Director. With Alan's guidance and inspiration, NCSCE developed the idea of cross-sector partnerships into an ongoing and vibrant project. In addition to losing a wonderful friend and colleague, we realize that we no longer have his expertise and guidance. Two individuals with strong backgrounds in informal science education will join the team to provide expertise in this area.

In addition, the SENCER-ISE partnerships have faced their own challenges. Some of these challenges include:

- maintaining the project and partnership during personnel shifts and,
- coordinating schedules of individuals in different sectors and in different locations.

To address the challenges faced by the partnerships we:

- required institutional support letters as part of the award process so that institutional leadership had some investment in having partnerships continue and,
- encouraged the development and ongoing review of action plans to coordinate schedules, calendars, and implementation of project activities.

EVALUATION

Formative and summative evaluation of the SENCER-ISE initiative are being conducted by RK&A. The results of this evaluation will be available at the end of the grant period.

In addition, each partnership is responsible for evaluating their specific project activities. The results from these evaluations will be shared by the partners at the end of the grant period.

SENCER-ISE TEAM

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Wm. David Burns, Principal Investigator
 Alan J. Friedman, Founding Project Director
 Ellen Mappen, Project Director
 Hailey Chenevert, Project Coordinator
 Patrice Legro, Advisor,
 Marian Koshland Science Museum
 Randi Korn, Advisor, RK&A
 Emily Skidmore, Advisor, RK&A

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 Tom Wood, George Mason University

SENCER-ISE PARTNERSHIPS

Antioch College & the Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center*
 Linda Fuselier, Antioch College
 Janene Giuseffi, Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center

Brooklyn College of the City University of New York
 & Gateway National Recreation Area of the National Park Service*
 Jennifer Adams, Brooklyn College
 Brett Branco, Brooklyn College
 Dan Meharg, Gateway National Recreation Area

Cornell University & the Sciencenter*
 Michelle Kortenaar, Sciencenter
 Tamar Kushnir, Cornell University

Fordham University & the Wildlife Conservation Society*
 Karen Tingley, Wildlife Conservation Society
 Amy Tuininga, Fordham University

Hamilton College, Hope College, Oberlin College & Green Science Policy Institute*
 Arlene Blum, Green Science Policy Institute
 Tim Elgren, Oberlin College
 Graham Peaslee, Hope College
 Greg Rahn, Hamilton College
 Adam Van Wynsberghe, Hamilton College

New Mexico's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)
 & the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science*
 Mary Jo Daniel, New Mexico EPSCoR
 Charlie Walter, New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science

Paul Smith's College & The Wild Center*
 Rob Carr, The Wild Center
 Curt Stager, Paul Smith's College

Raritan Valley Community College & the New Jersey Audubon Society*
 Jay Kelly, Raritan Valley Community College
 Dale Rosselet, New Jersey Audubon Society
 Nellie Tsioura, New Jersey Audubon Society

Saint Mary's College of California & the Lindsay Wildlife Museum*
 Steve Bachofer, Saint Mary's College of California
 Michele Setter, Lindsay Wildlife Museum

University of Connecticut & the Connecticut Science Center*
 Hank Gruner, Connecticut Science Center
 Rachel O'Neill, University of Connecticut

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