



rural activation and innovation network

Verde Valley (VV)

Isolated river valley with four towns and one tribal nation.

Projects: 8
Reach: 2600+
Sq Mi: 748
Pop: 65,300



Audiences gathered at Yavapai College's Xplorology



RAIN table at the Verde Valle River Days



RIC members at the Sedona Center

Graham/Greenlee (GG)

Mining and agriculture community with 2 cities, 5 towns and 1 tribal nation.

Projects: 12
Reach: 3600+
Sq Mi: 6,489
Pop: 46,000



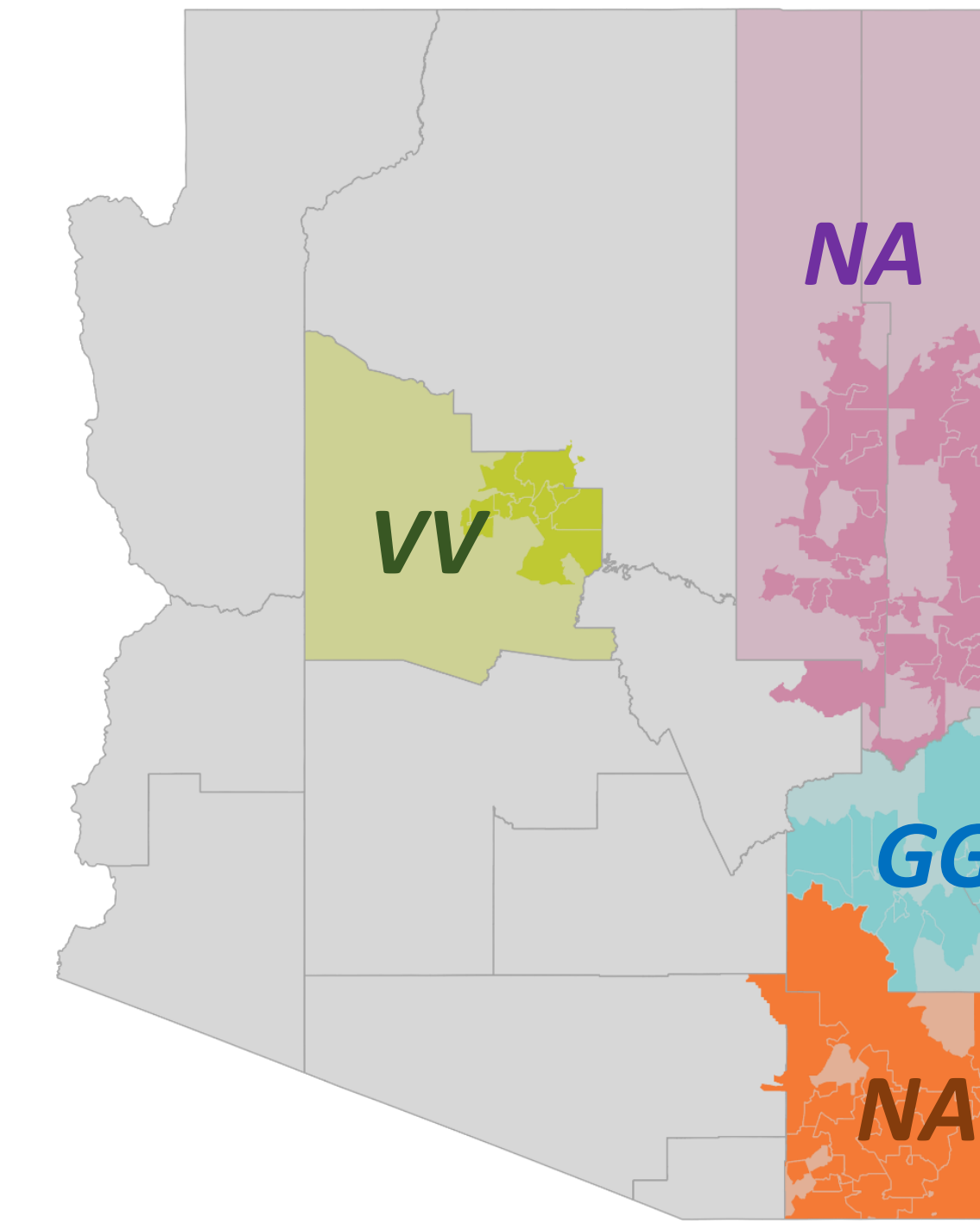
Community Outreach Meeting to draw attention to Rural Innovation Council's work

How to Cultivate & Sustain Place Based ISE Experiences in Rural Communities?



1612555

Four Arizona regions were selected for their uniqueness in geography and demographics to provide insights about barriers and solutions to implementing ISE experiences in rural communities.



Data collected from each of the 4 regions

Navapache (NA)

Remote mountain community with 4 cities, 4 towns, numerous unincorporated villages, and 1 tribal nation. 80% of the land is federal or state controlled.

Projects: 22
Reach: 2000+
Sq Mi: 10,000
Pop: 100,000



White Mountain Apache, Innovation Nation STEM Expo



White Mountain Nature Center STEM Festival



Navapache Grant writing workshop

Challenges / Lessons Learned

- Regions reflect a fixed or growth mindset (verbiage of Dr. Dweck)
 - Fixed: Verde Valley (VV) and Graham/Greenlee (GG)
 - Growth: Navapache (WM) and Cochise County (CC)
- Many participants are more comfortable with a prepared program than innovating on their own, especially with federal money.
- The overall time commitment is large due to distance and members wearing multiple hats in the community.

Research Questions:

- What is the extent that relevant, place-based networks can increase public awareness of local STEM assets, resources, and opportunities?
- How do networks foster a STEM related identity at the personal & community level?
 - Baseline data collected
 - Regional discussions occurring about what has changed
 - A statewide communication is underway to reach local, state & national audiences
- How rural communities currently perceive, access, & engage in ISE learning?
- What is the extent these communities identify themselves & their communities to STEM?
 - Residents place high value on STEM for themselves & for their community
 - Residents see themselves as connected to STEM
 - Residents see their community lacking a strong STEM identity
 - Non rural residents more likely to value STEM for the community

Cochise County (CC)

Blends agriculture, military, and natural resources with 1 city, 5 small towns, and several unincorporated villages. Shares southern border with Mexico. 6220 sq miles with 127K population.

Projects: 12
Reach: 2005
Sq Mi: 6220
Pop: 127,000



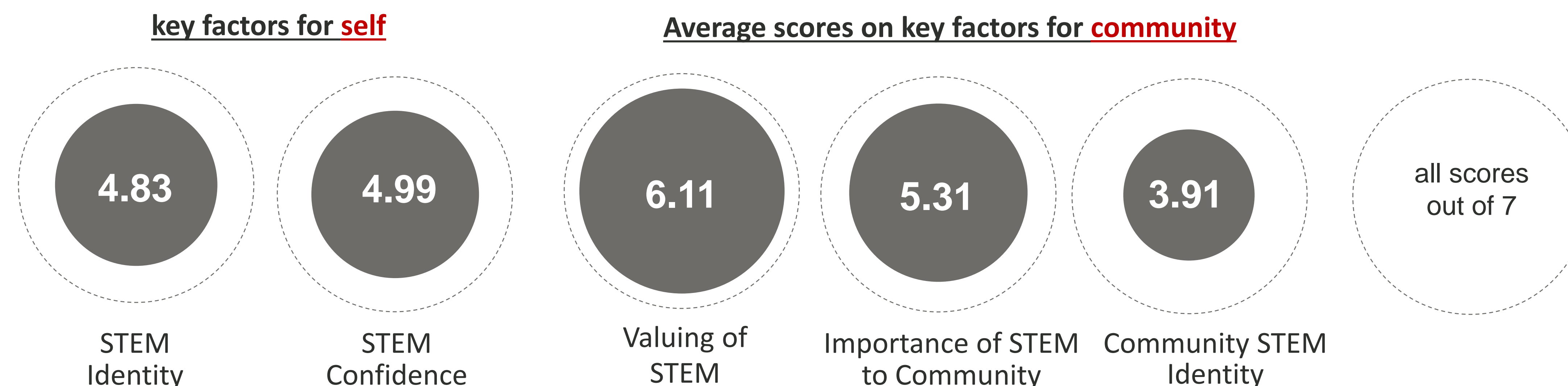
Bisbee Science Lab Grand Opening



Maker lab at Studio 128



Front page press of Chief Science Officer Launch in Cochise County



RAIN is a collaborative initiative of:

