Evaluation Capacity Building: Current Initiatives and Future Directions

Locating the panel’s projects across the field of ISE, from individuals to the entire field.

Building Informal Science Education (BISE)

**Audiences:** PI’s, evaluators, researchers, practitioners looking to write, share, and/or use evaluation reports across informal education projects.

**Scope:** This project focused on whether shared evaluation reports could provide knowledge about the ISE field and help move the field forward.

Center for Advancement of Informal Science Education (CAISE)

**Audiences:** Evaluators & Learning Researchers, NSF-funded Principal Investigators (PIs) in the Advancing Informal STEM Learning program as well as potential PIs, STEM researchers & their public outreach staff.

**Scope:** Serves five key roles: characterizer of the field, integrator of NSF investments, network and connectivity builder, resource generator, capacity building support.

Complex Adaptive Systems as a Model for Network Evaluation (CASNET)

**Audiences:** Professional network and organizational administrators and leadership teams; professional development planners; researchers and evaluators.

**Scope:** This study focuses on the organizational and system-level mechanisms and processes of evaluation capacity building across a large and complex network of institutions.

Collaboration for Ongoing Visitor Experience Studies (COVES)

**Audiences:** Virtually all museum professionals at science centers of various sizes and geographic locations.

**Scope:** This project will build a collaboration of science centers united in the systematic collection and analysis of visitor-level data to inform and improve institutional decision-making, while also enabling data aggregation for the field. Evaluation capacity building will occur at each institution, particularly around the interpretation of data and resulting reports.

Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Net); Team-Based Inquiry (TBI)

**Audiences:** NISE Network partners and project team members; informal science educators and professionals.

**Scope:** TBI was originally developed as a professional inquiry practice to help project teams improve their impacts on public and professional audiences. The practice is now being shared with partner organizations across the country.