

Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network

The Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Net) is a network of science museums and other institutions of informal science education that work with nanoscale research institutions to raise public awareness, understanding, and engagement with nanoscale science, engineering, and technology. At the core of the Network are 14 hub institutions that have worked in various ways with nearly 250 researchers from 2005 to 2008. The combined efforts of these two communities have resulted in professional development for graduate students and museum professionals, the development of innovative informal educational activities, and public programs and exhibits during the 2008 NanoDays pilot, in which more than 50 research groups and 64 science centers nationwide conducted public educational activities between March 29 and April 6. NanoDays also introduces nano educational concepts to informal educators, and NanoDays materials have been shipped to more than 200 sites in preparation for the 2009 event.

NISE Net is also building capacity for year-round educational programming about nanoscale phenomena and applications at 100 sites nationwide, which have an estimated combined annual attendance of between 8 and 10 million visitors. NISE Net members have developed an open-source online catalog of exhibits, demonstrations, programs, kits, media, forums, and guides on various aspects of nano informal education, and members hold regional and national workshops to provide the professional development needed to use and develop catalog materials. With these activities, NISE Net has set new standards for institutional collaborations, resource sharing, access, evaluation, and public engagement in societal, ethical, and environmental issues of new and emerging technologies.



NISE Net's 14 hub sites (yellow stars) and sites participating in NanoDays (green circles).

Patents or other steps toward commercialization:

Contributing Agency: NSF