

Panel Session IV and Table Discussions

Part I: Working with Scientific Societies and Professional Organizations to Promote Research-based education and outreach;

Part II: Professional Development: E&O Professionals in the Emerging Education Outreach Profession.

Saturday, April 14

2:15 – 3:30 pm

Assembly Room, 4th floor Rackham

Session Abstract

Scientific societies and professional organizations offer a range of services and products while also providing access to a community of practitioners that allow members to develop intellectual and social networks. This session will explore how NRCEN members engage these groups to build partnerships across content areas and educational environments as part of the process of promoting research based education and outreach. Panelists during this session will discuss how professional educators in NSF centers can learn from the model practices of these societies and organizations and apply them to further enhancing their work. A major goal of this session is to further elucidate how NRCEN can serve as the organization that fills a vital yet unfilled, niche in the lives of the emerging profession of NSF center educator.

Session Schedule:

2:15 – 2:23 PM	Introduction, Session Objectives, and Instructions
2:23 – 2:35	Panelist #1 – Eric Marshall
2:35 – 2:47	Panelist #2 – Mark Benthien
2:47 – 2:56	Panelist #3 – Robert de Groot
2:56 – 3:08	Panelist #4 – Dan Steinberg
3:08 – 3:10	Instructions
3:10 – 3:30	Breakout session – Each group will address both questions and the group's feedback will be collected by a designated recorder.
	Question 1 – What can NRCEN do help you in your work as a professional NSF center educator?
	Question 2 – What can you do to assist NRCEN in achieving its goals as an organization?

Panelists

Mark Benthien

Developing and sustaining partnerships among organizations is something like a dance; you might lead, or you might allow another to lead (and in doing so you empower the partnership). Sometimes you are more like the conductor of the band playing the music for other organizations to dance. This presentation will present examples of getting organizations to

dance, such as developing and sustaining partnerships with other organizations as well as between groups of organizations. Research centers are often the hub of many types of partnerships, including research alliances as well as networks that foster education, public outreach, and knowledge transfer. The presentation will show how to keep organizations on the dance floor by involving all partners concerned with achieving the goals of each organization.

Bob de Groot

The aviation pioneer James Doolittle said, "Nothing is stronger than the heart of a volunteer." Volunteers are the building blocks for many scientific societies and professional organizations. It is estimated that there are more than one million nonprofit organizations in the US, all competing for volunteers' time, talents and energy. Many organizations are having difficulty getting and keeping talented volunteers to carry on their activities. Volunteer opportunities that require long-term commitments, such as lengthy terms of office are intimidating to those whose time is already at a premium. Scientific societies such as the American Chemical Society have devoted extensive resources to enhance volunteer recruitment, engagement, and recognition.

Eric Marshall

Different scientific and technical professional societies create varied infrastructures and programs to support education and outreach efforts of its members and engagement of the public. Representative partnership examples will illuminate some of the possibilities so that we may discuss how can we best learn from and work with these societies in our endeavors.

Daniel Steinberg

EPO Professionals in the Emerging Education Outreach Profession. What is the Education and Public Outreach Professional? We are individuals in a dynamic group with many different expertises. We all have something to offer in much needed science and education reform. It is well documented by many studies and publications that improving science and engineering education is critical at this time in our nation's history. If we do not improve the public's understanding of science and engineering and greatly enhance the education of our students we will not keep up with the rest of the world. Our profession holds a critical role in this national quest for a scientifically and technologically literate population. We are often the key connection between higher education and cutting edge research with the formal and informal education world. This is not a simple task. We must share ideas, each from our own unique perspectives on how to bring science and engineering researchers into effective research based education programs. Those of us who are experienced should share that experience with newcomers. All of us continue to learn better ways to achieve effective education programs and incorporate leading scientists and engineers in the world of education and public outreach. NRCEN can be the focal point where we promote recognition of our emerging field. We can all help NRCEN grow a community to aid each of us in achieving the expertise we need to perform our job, get the recognition we deserve and promote standards for our emerging profession.