

Discussion on Museum Partnerships (Panel III)

Group 1

Joanna from Penn State

Seems we're on different levels, difficult to get what everyone wants, middle ground where everyone is happy, do want some things in common, wow, memorable

Written notes:

What we want?

We both want the "wow" factor to engage students and have a high impact

However to engage museum visitors we have to grab their attention within 2 minutes

Obstacles:

Finding common ground on activities

Durability vs. age level

Funding

Time commitment – takes 2-3 years to develop museum exhibit

Group 2

Joy from Northwestern

Expectations from Science Centers, environment is different from classroom, more independent thinking, more ideas, reach broader audience, smaller groups that visit your center

Tap into experts in translating science in informal education

Large vs. small – large may not have as much input in design, want money, but can apply for grants together

You might have more input and control with smaller museum, not as set and defined as with larger

Obstacles: funding, first thing that's asked, connecting with the right person, try to look for the scientists on staff, maybe you should start with smaller projects, build up to more ambitious projects later, university museums may be more flexible and open to partnerships with NSF centers based at university

Written notes:

Expect from science centers:

Free them from a structured environment

Interact with a broader audience

Expert at translating in an informal environment

Large Museum:

- Provide money or infrastructure
- Depend on in-house stuff to do most of it
- Partner with for grant proposal
- Science design contest at least museum?

Small museum:

- Help with the design elements

Obstacles:

Funding

Connecting with the right person at the museum

Suggestions:

Connect with the scientist on staff
Start small and build the relationship
Start with a smaller museum i.e. university museum

Group 3

Kyle

Working with the museum to showcase the center's science in a high profile forum, brain research lectures, used for outreach programs, use the expertise of the museum to strengthen a proposal, co-write, overcoming money obstacle: adapting existing exhibits, develop the exhibits on your own to shoulder some of the burden

Written notes:

Outreach to families

High profile of center's science

Want people to *learn* from exhibit

Sponsored lecture series with museum

Public lectures on Brain Research

Brought Outreach students and their teachers to lectures with dinner

Helped give teachers materials for their classes

200 students/yr?

Use their expertise

Center and museum

Co-write grants; strengthens the proposal

Family night

Obstacles:

Money

Adapt or develop our own exhibits

Group 4

John Whittmer with NISE

offer an opportunity for piloting activities for formal context, lots of visitors, smaller scale with rapid prototyping,

Obstacles: politics, impenetrable, "already had all the expertise they needed", budget, sense of scale