

NEW MEXICO INFORMAL SCIENCE & EDUCATION NETWORK

The importance of informal, non-classroom exposure to learning opportunities in STEM cannot be overstated. Experiences provided by parents, friends, and informal educators inspire and expose students to the wonder and possibility of science in everyday life. NM EPSCoR is proud to sponsor the New Mexico Informal Science Education Network (NM ISE Net) in order to provide opportunities and resources for informal educators (including the Summer Teacher Institute) to work together to impact science teaching, science learning, and science awareness throughout the state.

NM ISE Net is NM EPSCoR's primary vehicle for disseminating NM EPSCoR research to the public and engaging learners of all ages in STEM. In Year 2, the Network focused on building their capacity to effectively communicate science to the public. This included participation in the "Reflecting the Practice" coaching workshop facilitated by the [Lawrence Hall of Science](#); the workshop provided training and tools to improve the practice of informal science educators, and facilitated the formation of a Community of Practice of informal science institutions and practitioners in New Mexico. NM ISE Net is systematically linking members of their communities not only to other informal education institutions, but also to academic research efforts, faculty presentations, and the New Mexico Public Education Department.

1) Educators from the National Museum of Nuclear Science give a dry ice demonstration; 2) T-rex skull from Mesalands; 3) ISE Net participants enjoy hands-on activities at meetings

