

SENCER-ISE

National Center for Science & Civic Engagement
DRL-1237463, 16163268

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Existing and Emerging Resources

Visit sencer-ise.net to view:

- ❖ Reports on **partnership goals, activities, and accomplishments**,
- ❖ **The Alan Friedman Special Tribute Issue** of *Science Education and Civic Engagement: an International Journal* (Summer 2015),
- ❖ Report from the **2015 Washington Symposium and 2015 SENCER-ISE National Meeting** (forthcoming),
- ❖ **Evaluation resources** and reports,
- ❖ **Conference Proceedings and Executive Summary** from the SENCER-ISE March 2011 meeting, which explored the concept of civic engagement partnerships (sponsored by NSF DRL 1001795 and the Noyce Foundation), and
- ❖ **Citations and summaries of peer-reviewed articles reflecting four general themes**—impact on learning, professional development, challenges and outcomes, and perspectives on civic engagement, community outreach, and social justice.

SENCER-ISE Goals

Our goals are to:

- ❖ Support formal and informal science education **partnerships focused on compelling civic issues**,
- ❖ Examine whether these partnerships can bring about a **transformation in STEM educational practices**,
- ❖ Provide **models** for others in the wider educational community, and
- ❖ Promote **confidence** in the notion that informal science education institutional assets are accessible sources of high quality “life-long learning” on matters of science, public policy, personal well-being, and public welfare.

The *primary leadership audiences* of the SENCER-ISE project are informal science and higher education professionals. The *primary public audiences* of the partnerships range from high school, college, and graduate students to teachers, parents, and the general public.

Our Findings

Cross-sector civic engagement partnerships provide valuable benefits to their collaborators. We found that the partners gained:

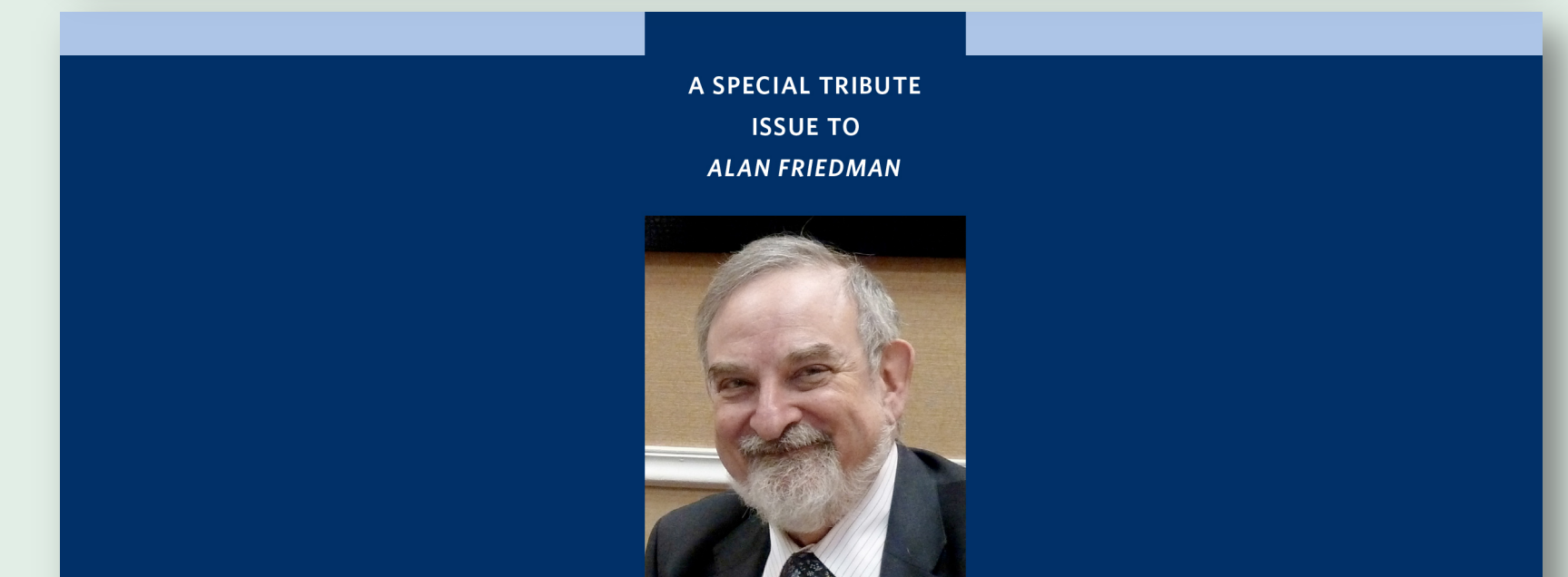
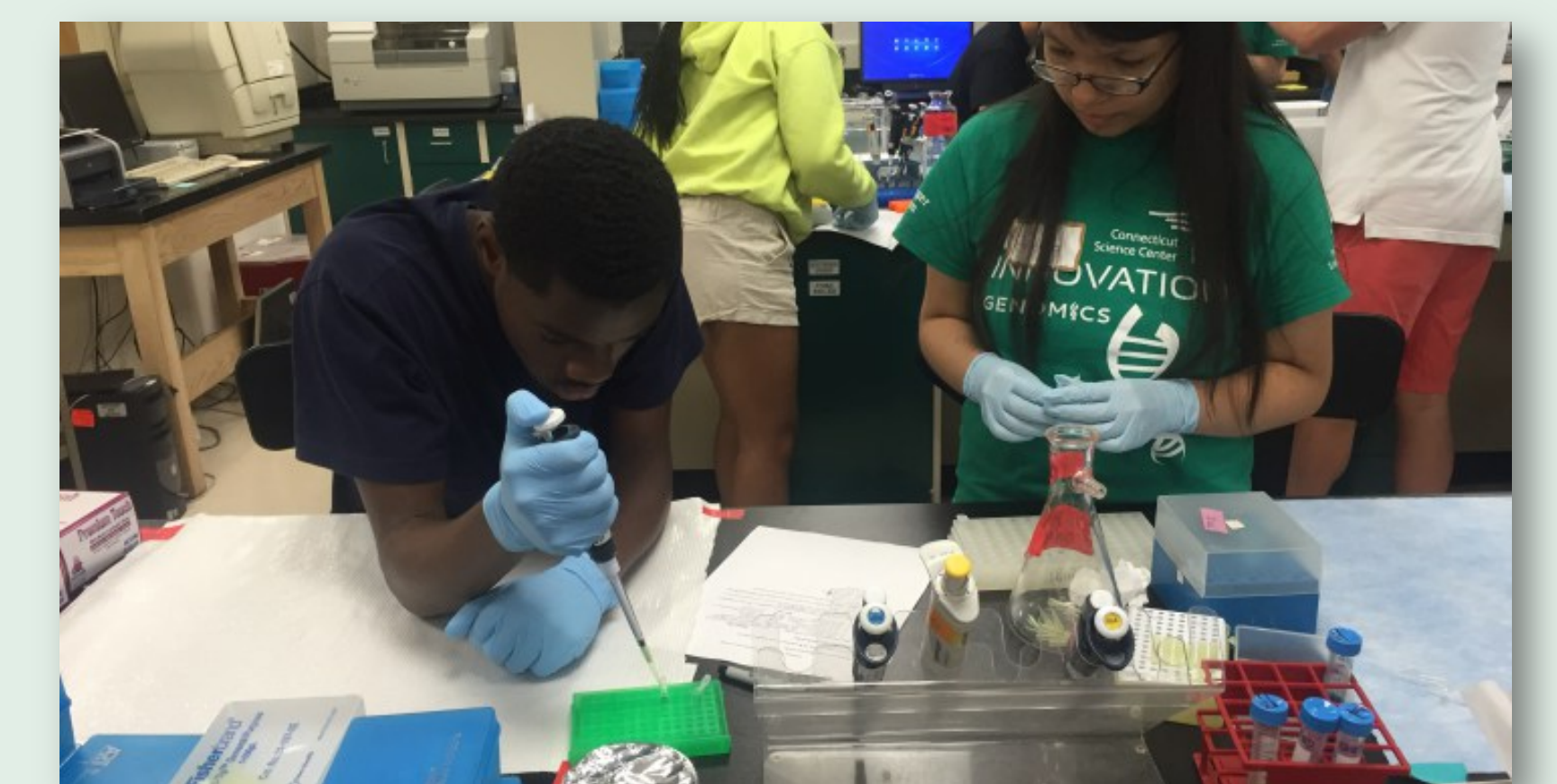
- ❖ **Deepened understanding** of the structure and constraints of each other's professional practices and organizations,
- ❖ **Increased respect** for the unique skills of professionals from each sector,
- ❖ **Expanded access to new audiences**, and
- ❖ **Improved learning** through connections to real-world contexts.

Civic issues of compelling consequence offer promising vehicles for forming cross-sector partnerships. Our partners collaborated on projects designed to focus on issues such as:

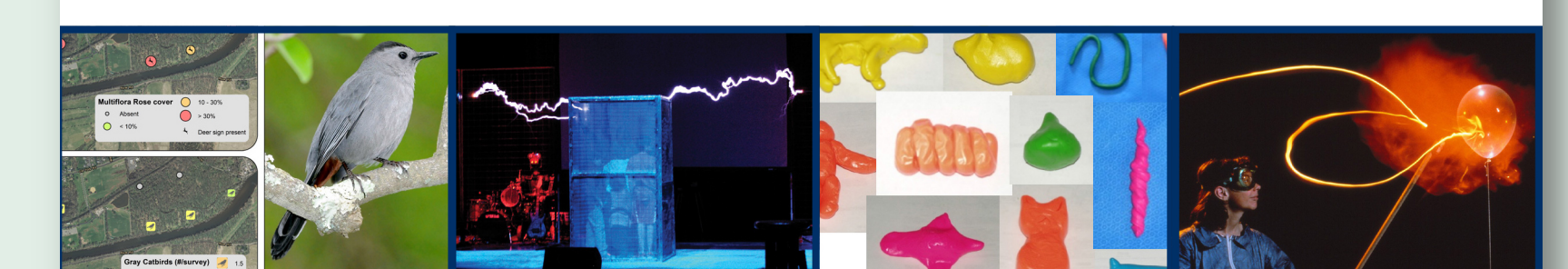
- ❖ Local impacts of climate change,
- ❖ Invasive species and habitat loss,
- ❖ Shoreline change and conservation,
- ❖ Urban ecology, and
- ❖ Public understanding of genomics

Creating and sustaining partnerships can be very challenging, but there are elements that influence and predict success. These include:

- ❖ Having the **appropriate levels of decision-making authority and organizational support** to make the partnership work,
- ❖ **Identifying and sharing common goals**,
- ❖ **Allocating and devoting adequate time** to build the partnership and project,
- ❖ **Developing and updating long-term action and evaluation plans**,
- ❖ Leveraging the strengths of each partner through **clearly articulated roles and responsibilities**, and
- ❖ **Maintaining regular communication.**



SCIENCE EDUCATION
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TRIBUTES TO THE LIFE AND WORK OF ALAN FRIEDMAN

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Our Nine Partners

Six partnerships were made possible by funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF DRL-1237463 and DRL-16163268) and three additional partnerships through funding from the Noyce Foundation. Our partners include:

- ❖ **Antioch College & the Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center,**
- ❖ **Brooklyn College of the City University of New York & Gateway National Recreation Area of the National Park Service**
- ❖ **Cornell University & Sciencenter**
- ❖ **Fordham University & the Wildlife Conservation Society**
- ❖ **New Mexico EPSCoR & the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science**
- ❖ **Paul Smith's College & The Wild Center**
- ❖ **Raritan Valley Community College & the New Jersey Audubon Society**
- ❖ **Saint Mary's College of California & the Lindsay Wildlife Museum**
- ❖ **University of Connecticut & the Connecticut Science Center**



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