

Building Supports Towards a Useful, Usable, and In-Use Framework of Professional Competencies in the Informal STEM Learning Field | AWARD #2215274

Project Description

Creating professional learning and development tools for those who engage the public in informal STEM learning (ISL). Builds on the *Informal STEM Learning Professional Competency Framework*.

Key Achievements

- Confirmed the Framework's transferability to a diverse range of ISL institution types. [Read more](#).
- Reviewed 100 job postings for field trends and needs.
- 70 professionals shared current issues impacting growth and advancement. [Read more](#).
- Gathered insights from 400+ professionals on their professional identities. *Report coming soon*.

Access & Inclusion

- Ensuring participants have diverse personal demographics and lived experiences
- Advisors like Museum Hue, Inluseum, National Emerging Museum Professionals Network, and more forefront the needs of marginalized professionals

Project Team

PI: Melissa Ballard (Association of Science and Technology Centers)

Co-PIs: Amanda Fisher (ASTC), Donnelley Hayde (COSI Center for Research & Evaluation), Kelly Riedinger (Oregon State University's STEM Research Center)

Community Partners: Input & co-design with 900+ professionals

Audience & Settings

Audience: Museum/ISE Professionals

Disciplinary area: General STEM

Learning environment: Professional Development & Workshops



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The **Informal STEM Learning Professional Competency Framework** is a tool for individuals, organizations, and academic programs to understand, plan, and advance their skills, knowledge, and capabilities:

- **Individuals** can use the framework to assess their current competencies or identify competencies they want to develop.
- **Institutions** can use the framework to plan staff professional development, consider staffing plans, or shape job descriptions.
- **Academic programs** can use the framework to review curriculum, support student learning, or guide students as they consider courses or pursue internships.



www.astc.org/isl-framework

How Professionals Can Chart a Career Path with the Framework



How Institutions Can Build a Strong Workforce with the Framework

