

Evaluation Capacity Building: Current Initiatives and Future Directions

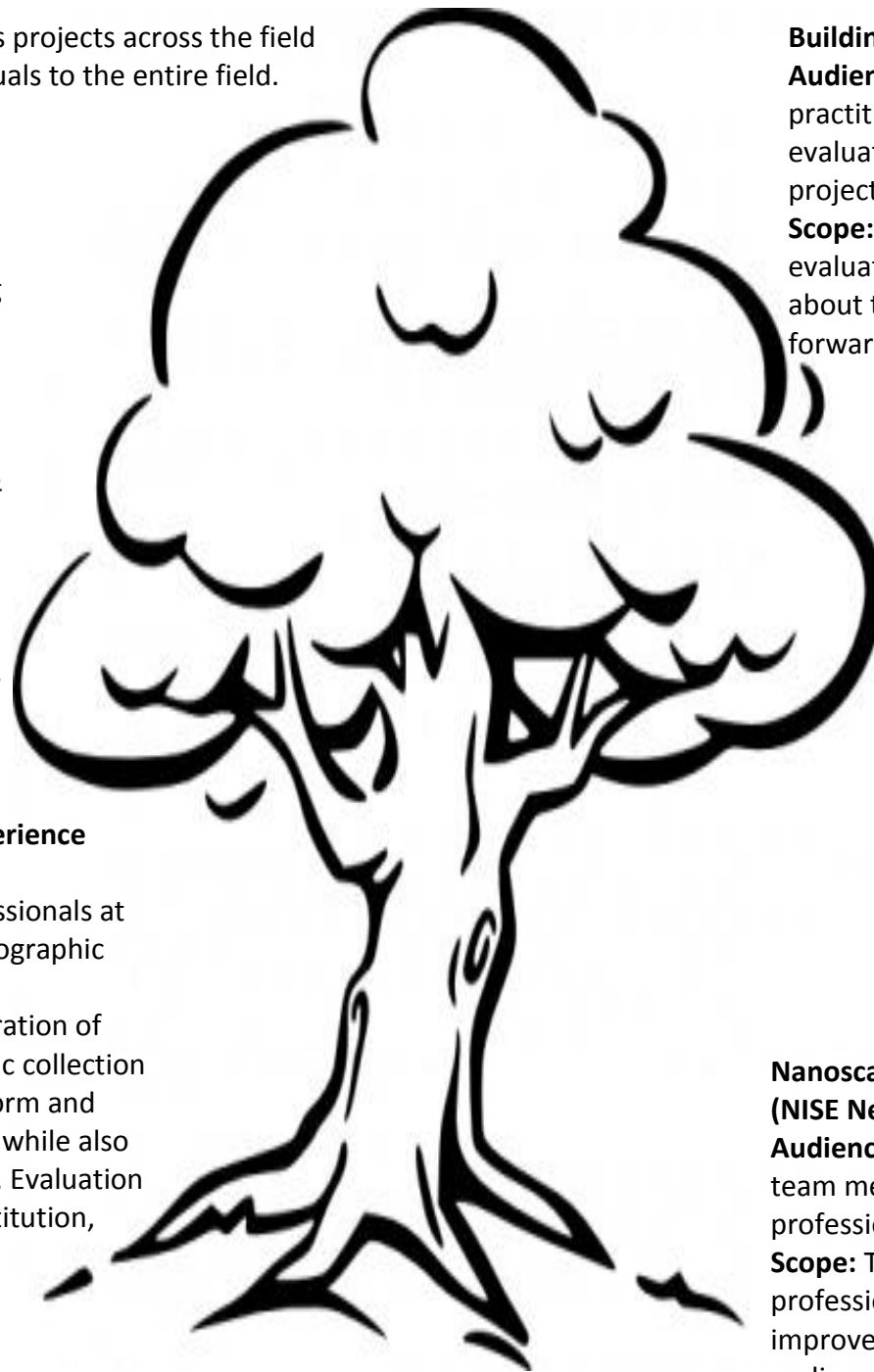
Locating the panel's projects across the field of ISE, from individuals to the entire field.

Center for Advancement of Informal Science Education (CAISE)

Audiences: Evaluators & Learning Researchers, NSF-funded Principal Investigators (PIs) in the Advancing Informal STEM Learning program as well as potential PIs, STEM researchers & their public outreach staff
Scope: Serves five key roles: characterizer of the field, integrator of NSF investments, network and connectivity builder, resource generator, capacity building support

Collaboration for Ongoing Visitor Experience Studies (COVES)

Audiences: Virtually all museum professionals at science centers of various sizes and geographic locations.
Scope: This project will build a collaboration of science centers united in the systematic collection and analysis of visitor-level data to inform and improve institutional decision-making, while also enabling data aggregation for the field. Evaluation capacity building will occur at each institution, particularly around the interpretation of data and resulting reports.



Building Informal Science Education (BISE)

Audiences: PI's, evaluators, researchers, practitioners looking to write, share, and/or use evaluation reports across informal education projects.
Scope: This project focused on whether shared evaluation reports could provide knowledge about the ISE field and help move the field forward.

Complex Adaptive Systems as a Model for Network Evaluation (CASNET)

Audiences: Professional network and organizational administrators and leadership teams; professional development planners; researchers and evaluators
Scope: This study focuses on the organizational and system-level mechanisms and processes of evaluation capacity building across a large and complex network of institutions.

Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Net); Team-Based Inquiry (TBI)

Audiences: NISE Network partners and project team members; informal science educators and professionals
Scope: TBI was originally developed as a professional inquiry practice to help project teams improve their impacts on public and professional audiences. The practice is now being shared with partner organizations across the country.