Town, Gown and Beyond: a successful model for an informal inter-organizational outreach education system

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National Association for Broader Impacts Summit April 29-May 1, 2015

Summary: There has been an age-old dilemma of finding a way to connect universities to K-12 schools and the community. The Dakota Science Center (DSC) has developed a successful flexible model based on a network of informal relationships with stakeholders from town, gown, and beyond.

University faculty present at Science Cafés with STEM Topics

In a world of ever expanding technology and science issues citizens have an opportunity to learn about STEM in their community. DSC and the Grand Forks Public Library host Science Cafés to share STEM with the public.

DSC works with university researchers to develop adult and grade appropriate K-12 curriculum based on the theme of research.

Formal and informal versions of the curriculum are field tested within a library STEM program designed by DSC.

Once field tested the curriculum is incorporated into K-12 in-school/out-of-school programs; community programs and provided to out-of-area educators.

In-service teacher workshops with new curriculum.

DSC develops programs for libraries: Exhibits with STEM activities

AgScience and Community Gardens