



Diversity, Equity and Access (DEA) in the NISE Network

Statement of goals

NISE Net seeks to increase understanding of nanoscale science and technology among underserved and underrepresented audiences of all ages so that:

- They may engage in this emerging technology as informed citizens.
- We may inspire future scientist and engineers.
- We increase the capacity in the ISE field to bring nanoscale science and technology to new audiences.

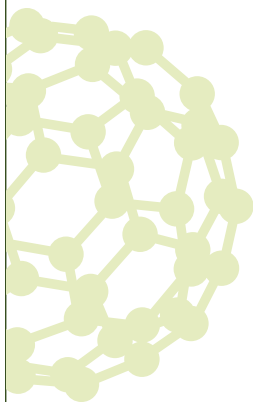
As part of the DEA effort, we will also work to create and deliver products that serve new partners and their underserved audiences.

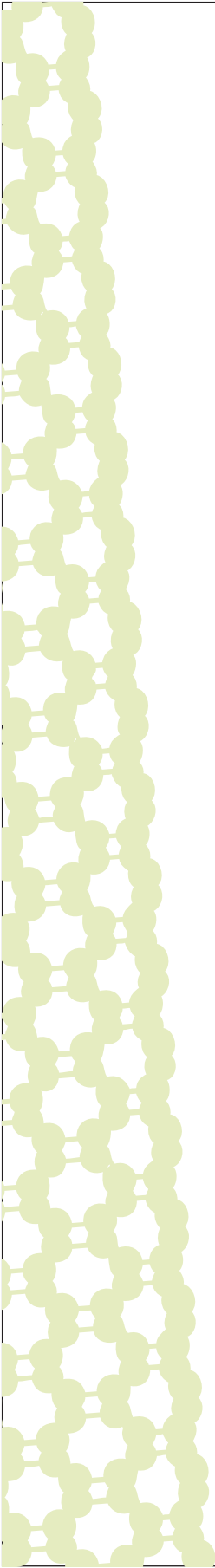
Following are some examples of what successful outcomes might look like.

- You have conducted an environmental scan of the areas you serve and determined underrepresented target audiences that you need to engage.
- You have policies and practices in place to engage these underrepresented target audiences
- The materials/facilities you use are accessible to non-English speaking populations and persons with disabilities.
- You have established partnerships with groups and/or organizations that represent audiences of different ages, cultures, races, and persons with disabilities.
- The presenters you engage represent a range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds and physical challenges.

Here's what we've done toward accomplishing our goals:

- Formed a DEA thematic hub to foster relationships throughout the NISE Net. This will enhance our ability to learn by working together, in the spirit of the way the network has been developing products, growing, and engaging people in nano.
- Programs workshops included consultants to apply Universal Design principles to improve accessibility of our programmatic products, and Exhibit products present a range of different faces and voices.
- The NEO program served three cohorts of young scientists from diverse backgrounds by giving them training and experience in effectively communicating about their research to audiences using informal, interactive methods.
- Created a DEA task force to identify promising outreach practices throughout the network (and we plan to have tools on nisenet.org to share these).



- 
- Identified professional societies and organizations that target underrepresented groups in science, technology and engineering and will work with the Diversity Council to initiate partnerships that will spread the work of the NISE Net among their audiences.
 - Identified one enrichment program that serves at-risk youth nation-wide as collaborating organization (DOD Starbase).
 - Distributed NanoDays kits to a wide range of institutions (rural, urban, small, large, formal, informal) and are collecting information on audiences served.
 - Tested forums and programs that can be taken to new audiences in different venues (community centers, colleges, non-museum settings).

Here's what you can do to contribute to this effort:

- Use the NanoDays kits or other activity sets with your outreach programs, with your Title 1 schools, with your underserved community segments.
- Try a program or forum in a non-museum setting of your choice (seek new audiences and partners).
- Include NISE Net activities when you observe National Engineers week, and/or invite a minority-serving professional organization into your institution for a nano-themed activity day.
- Train youth from different backgrounds to deliver some of these activities.
- Record data about the audiences you have for these events and programs.
- Help us brainstorm more ways to effectively include different kinds of publics.
- Bring your experiences with diverse publics to the NISE Net by sharing your experiences on our website.

Here's what we can do to help you:

- We can assist by sharing ideas about how to reach more audiences through the (future) nisenet.org Diversity Blog and by distributing NanoDays kits to new partners with whom you can work to reach those publics.
- We can provide Universal Design guidelines for reaching broader audiences.
- We could provide translations into other languages if there is demand among partners.
- We can match you up with a NEO graduate – they are available and willing to put their skills to work with partners in the NISE Net, and we are working to involve them in workshops, create new NEO-type workshops, etc. to increase the pool of scientists who are trained in inquiry-based learning.
- We can help you find a scientist who wants to work more with diverse audiences through MRS and their scientist database.
- Each hub has a DEA member, who is a resource and contact regionally, and who are connected to each other to provide support to these efforts.
- The DEA hub could provide professional development for diversity-focused partners who wish to engage their audiences with NISE Net products.