

## WHAT IS THE NISE NETWORK?

The Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network™ (NISE Net) is a national community of researchers and informal science educators dedicated to fostering public awareness, engagement, and understanding of nanoscale science, engineering, and technology.

*Making iridescent thin films*



The NISE Network is funded through awards from the National Science Foundation (DRL 0532536 and 0940143). Launched in 2005 by the Museum of Science, the Science Museum of Minnesota, and the Exploratorium, the Network is now led by 14 museums, universities, and other institutions across the nation.

1 Roco, M.C.. "The Long View of Nanotechnology Development: The National Nanotechnology Initiative at 10 Years." *Journal of Nanoparticle Research* 13.2 (2011): 427 – 445.



[www.nisenet.org](http://www.nisenet.org)

*NISE Net partners explore the properties of nanoscale coatings at a professional workshop*



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## WHY NANO?

At the nanoscale—the scale of atoms and molecules—many common materials exhibit unexpected properties, such as better electrical conductivity or faster chemical reactions. Manipulating things at the nanoscale is enabling new innovations that weren't possible before now.

Advances in nanoscale science, engineering, and technology are leading to breakthroughs in computing, medicine, energy, and environmental stewardship. With those breakthroughs come new costs, risks, and benefits that have implications for everyone.

Estimates made at the National Science Foundation indicate that in the next five years two million workers will be needed to support nanotechnology industries worldwide and the market of products incorporating nanotechnology will reach one trillion dollars.<sup>1</sup>

**The NISE Network™** is building the capacity of informal science education institutions and research organizations to work together to raise public awareness, understanding, and engagement with nanoscale science, engineering, and technology.

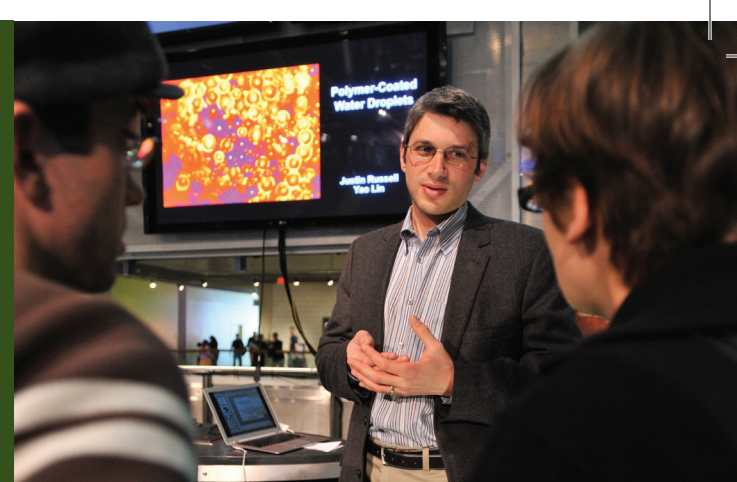
Over 300 museums, science centers, research centers, universities, and other organizations across the United States have been involved in the NISE Network so far, and the Network continues to grow and develop.

*NanoDays visitors experiment with hydrophobic sand*



### NANODAYS: A NISE NETWORK EVENT

This annual spring festival is the largest public outreach effort in nanoscale informal science education, and involves hundreds of museums, research centers, and universities across the U.S., from Puerto Rico to Alaska.



### GETTING INVOLVED

Strong regional and national partnerships are the foundation of the NISE Network. Our community is organized around seven regional hubs that help museum educators and researchers connect with each other and provide support to institutions in their region.

→ **Find your regional hub:**

[www.nisenet.org/community](http://www.nisenet.org/community)

### PRODUCTS TO ENGAGE THE PUBLIC

The NISE Network catalog of educational products contains hundreds of hands-on activities, demonstrations, stage presentations, videos, posters, and more.

→ **Browse the catalog:**

[www.nisenet.org/catalog](http://www.nisenet.org/catalog)

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Raising the capacity of our field is a key effort of the NISE Network. Professional resources such as trainings, guides, and templates are available in our online catalog. The Network also hosts in-person trainings, pre-conference workshops, and more for both informal science educators and nano scientists and researchers.

