

Archived Information

The Science House, NC State University, Raleigh, NC

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Who We Are, Summary and Goals

The Science House works in partnership with K-12 teachers to emphasize the use of hands-on learning activities in mathematics and science. Through school demonstration programs, student science camps, teacher workshops and innovative laboratory training and support projects, The Science House annually reaches over 2000 teachers and 20,000 students in 60 North Carolina counties. The activities of The Science House bring the science, mathematics and technology expertise of NC State University to enhance teacher effectiveness and to help students visualize careers in these disciplines. The Science House is itself a partnership of faculty and staff from science and education departments across the NC State campus, and collaborates with many other K-12 support organizations in North Carolina. Exemplary Science House programs include:

Our Activities, Accomplishments and Plans

The NSF EMPOWER project helps over 100 middle school mathematics and science teachers to use computer-based laboratory technology in their classrooms. The Science House provides teacher training and circulates lending libraries of equipment to these mostly rural schools scattered across eastern North Carolina. This model of training and academic year support is one that The Science House has pioneered for several years and is used in high schools stretching from the mountains to the coast. Similar projects include the Rural Schools Programs and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Precollege Program.

The Imhotep Academy, named for the architect of the step pyramids, helps students from populations under-represented in the sciences explore through hands-on learning activities how individuals from different races and cultures have contributed to our present-day science and technology. The Imhotep Academy is just one of several student science learning and research exploration programs of The Science House.

The Science On the Road program brings lively physics, chemistry and earth science demonstration programs to schools across the state. The programs include thrills, audience participation and an attitude that science is fun and is found all around us. The programs increase student enthusiasm for science and also make connections to new schools and teachers who later participate in other Science House programs.

The Science Junction web site developed in collaboration with the College of Education is a rich, interactive resource of student learning activities and teaching ideas.

The Science House conducts Teacher Training Workshops on hands-on science and mathematics learning - from Physics From the Junk Drawer and Countertop Chemistry to Using Microcomputer-Based Laboratory Equipment to Teach Science. These workshops of one, two or more days are provided at low cost to schools and school systems.

The Science House is located amid the high tech facilities of the NC State Centennial Campus. The facility includes classrooms, teaching laboratory and a computer learning center. The Western Outreach office, supporting many schools in the foothill and mountains, is located at the Caldwell County Schools office in Lenoir. A second "satellite" facility is located in the Northeastern NC at the Albemarle Learning Center. The long term plan for The Science House includes extension of its services across North Carolina through several new satellite offices and enhancement of the use of distance learning technology