

NASA NEWS

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



Doug LeMere
NASA Shared Services Center, Bay St. Louis, Miss.
228-813-6617
douglas.m.lemere@nasa.gov

June 8, 2012

RELEASE: 12-007

NASA INFORMAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS GRANTEES MEETING HELD

BAY ST. LOUIS, Miss. – The NASA Informal Education Institutions Grantees meeting was recently held at Infinity Science Center, located at Stennis Space Center (SSC) in Mississippi.

The meeting, cohosted by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the NASA Shared Services Center (NSSC) and SSC for NASA Headquarters, was held to provide an opportunity for NASA to see grantee progress, foster collaboration, reduce unnecessary duplication and maximize the impact of NASA funds.

The NSSC supports the agency's internal effort to create an environment conducive to streamlining and simplifying grants and cooperative agreements. NASA, through the establishment of the NSSC, has transitioned to a consolidation model for the award and administration of all agency grants and cooperative agreements. The consolidation is designed to achieve efficient and effective service, improve data quality, standardize processes, leverage skills and investments and provide economies of scale.

“Part of the NSSC’s mission is to provide customer support in a cost-effective manner,” NSSC Lead Contract Specialist for Grants Ben Benvenuti said. “We emphasize cost-effectiveness because it allows NASA funding to be spent as it truly should be – to fund NASA programs.”

The objective of the NSSC Procurement Division, Research Activities Branch, is to provide support for NASA research, science and education communities in the award and administration of research, education, training, and facility-type grants and cooperative agreements. Since the NSSC’s go-live in March 2006, the NSSC Procurement Division has awarded 11,151 grants and 24,386 supplements for a total of 35,537.

In support of the upcoming government-wide science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education strategic plan—to strategically focus Federal STEM efforts and to have a more significant impact in areas of national priority—this informal education gathering promotes collaboration and partnerships among NASA Education and Communication projects, and promotes professional competency.

Through these sessions, the outcomes and deliverables included: raising awareness of resources, roles and expertise within the community; building grantees' and Technical Officers' knowledge of guidelines and requirements for managing mature NASA Informal Education projects; broadening community knowledge of best-practices and resources for museum-related informal education projects and developing a plan for sharing with wider Museum Alliance community; identifying specific opportunities for future collaboration; and developing individual implementation ideas for use of NASA networks and resources, including the community-produced materials and active membership in the Museum Alliance.

The NSSC is a partnership between NASA, CSC (formerly the Computer Sciences Corporation) and the states of Mississippi and Louisiana. The NSSC performs selected business activities for all 10 NASA centers in financial management, human resources, information technology and procurement.

For information about the NASA Shared Services Center, visit:

<http://www.nssc.nasa.gov>

-end-