

Sharing the Adventure with the Student

Exploring the Intersections of NASA Space Science and Education

Impressions from the Workshop

Jim Manning
(and several others)

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*Note: these are impressions,
not necessarily truths.*



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*Great group of people both internal
and external to NASA education,
with excellent insights.*

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Excellent presentations, good panel discussions, valuable information and perspective shared.

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*Largely affirmed the work of the
NASA SMD community present at
the meeting.*

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There was little controversy; “it was a bit like preaching to the choir.”

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It seemed unclear who the audience was, and what came out of it.

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There were many agendas at play in addition to the official one (as might be expected).

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*Focus was on formal education
(especially looking toward STEM
standards adoption), virtually none
on informal education.*

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*Heavy emphasis on the Framework
and the Next Generation Science
Standards.*

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*The discussion on evaluation “was
useful to many present.”*

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There was a lot of “rich content” in the discussion of partnerships, which could help NASA SMD manage its new program.

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It came through that NASA SMD education programs have metrics and evaluation, and use partners to extend impact and reach.

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The discussion indicated the importance of scientist-educator partnerships—that it's critical, and NASA SMD is employing them.

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A lot of advice fell outside of what NASA education was set up to do (e.g., education research, curriculum development).

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There might have been more emphasis on diversity—how to work effectively with diverse audiences.

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It is not clear if or how the workshop influenced the SMD Cooperative Agreement Notice (e.g., formal K-12 education).

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It might have been most useful if there had been, in retrospect, recommendations to NASA. (The enabling actions and summary statements at least crystallize some of the thinking.)

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Overall: a useful snapshot of a dynamic field of endeavor in the midst of change, as well as the current status of NASA education; valuable in and of itself, with much to mine from the published summary.