

NASA Astrobiology Institute



NAI's EPO Program: Serving Multiple Communities

Krisstina Wilmoth

Education and Public Outreach Manager

Communities We Serve

- NAI Teams
- Funding Sources
- Internal & External Partners
- Larger Astrobiology Community
- Educational & Public Audiences

NAI Central EPO Functions

- **Support, complement and extend** EPO efforts of the Teams
- Coordinate between the Teams
- Collaborate with external partners
- Leverage investments by other organizations & partners
- Respond to requests for information, partnership, and scientific review
- Produce, evaluates and disseminates materials
- Minimize draw on researchers wherever possible

NAI Central EPO Administrative Roles

- Manage the funds
- Represent all of NAI to Office of Space Science
- Collect and report EPO activities
- Educate internal partners/funding sources
- Participate in review panels/boards to represent astrobiology

NAI EPO's Biggest Assets

- You
- Public Interest in astrobiology content

What does it mean to be a part of OSS EPO?



- Directed by Jeff Rosendhal, NASA HQ
- Strategic and Implementation Plans
- OSS “Support Network”
 - **Forums**
 - **Broker/Facilitators**

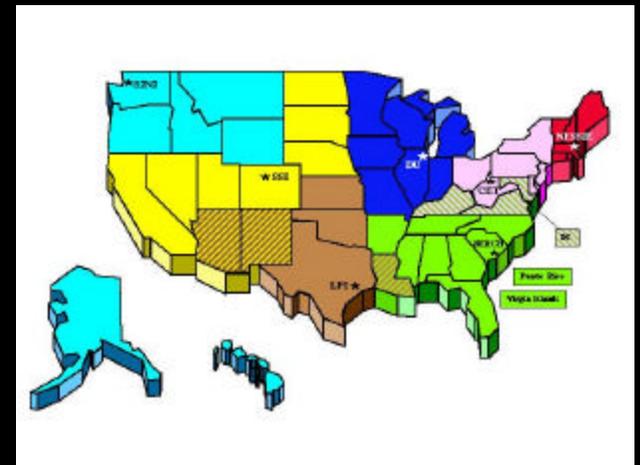


Forums

- Responsible for coordinating OSS Missions EPO
 - **Origins**
 - **Solar System Exploration (SSE)**
 - **Sun-Earth Connection**
 - **Structure & Evolution of the Universe**
- NAI participates in Origins & SSE
 - **Attending monthly telecons**
 - **Participating in centralized product registration and evaluation**
 - **Coordinating at conferences**
 - **Reporting**

OSS Broker/Facilitators

- Responsible for linking scientists and educators within a region of the country
 - DePaul University (DU), Chicago, IL
 - Lunar and Planetary Institute (LPI), Houston, TX
 - New England Space Science Initiative in Education (NESSIE), Boston, MA
 - Center for Educational Technologies (CET), Wheeling, WV
 - Space Science Network Northwest (S2N2), University of Washington
 - Southeast Regional Clearinghouse (SERCH), Charleston, SC
 - Space Science Institute (SSI), Boulder, CO



OSS Education and Public Outreach Goals

- “Share the excitement of space science with the public.
- Enhance the quality of science, mathematics, and technology education, particularly at the **pre-college** level.
- Help create our 21st century scientific and technical workforce.”

OSS EPO Objectives Relevant to NAI

- “Increase the fraction of the space science community that contributes to a broad public understanding of science and is directly involved in education at the pre-college level.
- Establish strong and lasting partnerships between the space science and education communities.
- Promote the participation of underserved and underutilized groups in the space science program by providing new opportunities for minorities and minority universities to compete for and participate in space science missions, research, and education programs.”

Astrobiology Offers Unique EPO Challenges

- Few existing materials
- Newer, growing field (even OSS struggles to fit astrobiology into their self definition)
- Interdisciplinary science is a challenge for high school systems which are discipline based
- Participating in multiple disciplines is costly
- Many misconceptions and myths in popular culture
- No one will tell us where NASA hides the little green men and therefore we can't tell the *Ask An Astrobiologist* users!

Where can you find information on NAI's EPO?



- Record of EPO activities by Team
- Today's presentations