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

**GOALS**

**Build a network** of sustainable relationships among informal science education (ISE) organizations and nanoscale science and engineering (nano) research organizations.

**Engage the public** in nano through exhibits, programs, and other learning opportunities.

**Increase capacity** among partner organizations by providing professional development, resources, and knowledge.

**CHALLENGES**

When the Network began in 2005, it faced the following challenges:

1. The content and pedagogy of nano education was only just emerging.
2. Little was known about how to engage the public in nano in ISE contexts.
3. ISE organizations had little expertise, experience, or incentive to engage the public in nano.
4. The ISE field had limited experience in developing and working within a national supportive network.

*(Overview of NISE Network Evaluation Year 4 Summative Evaluation, 2009)*

Central to our success in meeting these challenges have been:

- The scope of the project, including the breadth of involvement from funded staff and partners across the country and the 10-year span of the project, and
- The continued cycle of formative evaluation, partner feedback, reflection, and re-design at every level of our work.

Professional website: [www.nisenet.org](http://www.nisenet.org) • Public website: [www.whatisnano.org](http://www.whatisnano.org)