

Bringing Science into the Classroom

Organizers: Aleida Perez, Lisa Miller and Fernando Camino

Invited speakers: Lisa Miller (BNL-NSLSII), Fernando Camino (BNL-CFN), Antonio Lanzirotti (University of Chicago), Mary Kroll (East Islip High School), Edward Irwin (Freeport High School), Emily Cotman (NISE Net) and Lora Hine (Xraise, Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source)

Round table participants: Robert Bolen (Eastport South Manor High School), Tracy Walker (Canadian Light Source), Lisa Miller, Fernando Camino, Lora Hine and Emily Cotman

Participants: 55 registered: 25 teachers/school administrators from 10 school districts and scientists from BNL and Stony Brook University

The workshop was organized in the form of talks and informal discussions by scientist and educators. The goal of this workshop was to present to educators and school administrators how the NSLS-II and CFN tools can be used to promote authentic, student-driven research in the classroom and its future impact in workforce development. It also introduced participants to best practices and various educational resources by organizations such as the (National Informal STEM Education Networks (NISE Net) and Cornell University Xraise.

The morning session was dedicated to the NSLS-II and CFN as participants were introduced to the facilities; their capabilities and how teachers can become users. Next, teachers who are users of the NSLS-II and CFN shared their experiences and demonstrated how these facilities were used to answer student driven research questions. They noted the impact had on students and their communities, by having access to these state of the art facilities. By remote access, school districts can reach out a broader audience.

The afternoon session provided participants with educational resources available at the NISE Net and XRaise. The NISE Net engaged participants by demonstrating how their Nanoscience related activities can be integrated into the classroom. Cornell's Xraise gave an overview of their educational programs.

The closing session was a round table discussion with participants from NSLS-II, CFN, Cornell Xraise, NISE Net and Canadian Light Source. The round table fostered open discussion of best practices, how to reach to the community, and the value to the community that it serves. Participants toured the NSLS-II and CFN.

Overall the workshop provided an overview of both facilities. Presentations and round table discussion provided an environment of open communication and sharing of ideas. Educational workshops should continue being hosted and include presentations from students.