Improve Your Broader Impacts With Data Nuggets!

**Organizers:**

Melissa Kjelvik (KBS)

Elizabeth Schultheis (KBS)

Mary Spivey (CDR)

**Participants:**

25 participants, representing 20 sites

Session organizers Kjelvik and Schultheis delivered an overview of the Data Nuggets project, originally the product of an NSF GK-12 grant and now funded for the next four years by an NSF DRK-12 award.

The current Data Nuggets database contains 28 activities. Of these, 7 are from LTER sites (4 from PIE and 3 from KBS). Using Google Analytics we know over 9000 unique people, from all 50 states and several countries, have accessed the website. Project leaders expressed partnership with the LTER would be especially fruitful. LTER sites have long-term datasets and overlapping education and outreach objectives to accomplish.

A goal of the working group was to lead participants through the Data Nugget development process. Using templates available online, organizers Kjelvik and Schultheis led the group through the initial steps in creating Data Nugget of their own. Participants came to the working group with a pre-digested dataset to use in Nugget development. Some of these were observation-driven time series datasets, a form not previously used in Data Nuggets activities. Discussions around how best to use these valuable datasets led project organizers to suggest participants prepare a Nugget using these unique datasets, submit them to the project, and allow the project organizers to edit the exercise to fit the Data Nugget format. Kjelvik and Schultheis contemplated the possibility of developing a second Data Nugget development template to fit time series data. At the end of the working group, participants with draft Nuggets sent them to Kjelvik and Schultheis for editing. Others committed to sending them in at a later time.

Due to the potential transient nature of a grant-funded project once the funding stops, a question arose about the life of this project beyond the current award period. Both presenters expressed confidence the project will continue beyond the award period. They state there will be a place for it either on the KBS or BSCS (Biological Sciences Curriculum Studies) servers.

Overall, participant support for Data Nuggets was positive. Excitement in these activities, presenting powerful examples of real science via authentic databases and individual research projects, was evident and nearly every site present aims to be represented by at least one activity in the Data Nugget database. Having a Nugget in the library provides a mechanism for broader impacts for the site as well as a way to share site science with K-16 students across the world.