



# 2018 Learning Pathway Details

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## **The "Nuts & Bolts" of Instructional Materials Support**

This pathway will engage participants in the “nuts & bolts” of managing a large science materials resource center that is in the midst of curriculum/science kit changes to meet the demands of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Learn from the team about their technology system improvements, handling of living materials, implementing Open Education Resources (OER), partnerships with suppliers, and the transition to newly adopted NGSS curriculum on a state-wide scale. Included in the presentation will be a live, online tour of a facility in Dover, DE and interaction with the staff at the facility.

### **Block 1:**

The Delaware Story. This segment will describe the establishment of the center and the evolution since 1995. It will also describe the business partnerships that fueled the creation of the Delaware Science Coalition. The DE program is unique in that it is truly a statewide science program encompassing almost every public school in the state. The structure of the guiding coalition and materials support will be discussed during this block.

### **Block 2:**

Purchasing, Refurbishing, & Delivery systems. This segment will include discussion on purchasing ideas, refurbishment systems, and the delivery of science kits on a state level. A portion of this section will include an online tour of the Delaware facility and interaction with staff. Participants will learn the refurbishment process used in the facility and lessons learned from other science centers across the nation. Staffing and seasonal support systems will also be discussed in the session.

### **Block 3:**

Technology Systems. As the center grew, the technology systems could not keep up with the demand, so the DE Science Coalition partnered with 2B Solutions to create a new technology system. The result is the WIMS for STEM software (or WIMS 2.0) that allows inventory to be tracked, kits to be scanned in and out of the facility, manage work orders, manage professional learning events, and have teacher records be automatically updated. Participants will use the WIMS in a portion of the block to manage a “fictitious practice” school in Delaware.

### **Block 4:**

Partnerships & Living Materials. Successful science centers are built upon solid partnerships. Greater efficiency is typically a product of these partnerships. The DE team will describe the many partnerships developed over the past two decades to enable science kits to be implemented on a state level. Participants will learn how the center has managed the Open Education Resource (OER) market to create custom kits. Also included is a discussion on how innovative packaging of living materials cards and purchasing partnerships dramatically improved the efficiency of the center, saving both time and money.

### **Block 5:**

NGSS Transition. The transition from current standards, and associated curriculum & science kits, to the NGSS or “NGSS influenced” standards has proved to be very difficult. Delaware was the 7th state to



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adopt the NGSS and has since embarked on a journey to make the current science kit program align with NGSS. The DE Science Coalition has adopted some OER products, custom created science kits, and adopted new curricular series over the past three years. The team will describe the lessons learned as the center manages this conversion and the challenges they have faced since adoption in 2013.