

## **Collaboration is the Key to NAI Education & Public Outreach**

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Capitalizing on the expanded expertise and projects now a part of the NAI after the addition of the CAN 3 Teams, NAI's Education and Public Outreach (E/PO) program has reached audiences of all levels through intense collaboration. Because NAI Central is highly visible to external organizations looking for partners in astrobiology E/PO, we are contacted often with opportunities. NAI Central passes those opportunities on to the Lead Teams to expand their involvement in national projects. Additionally, feedback from the E/PO Working Group at a planning meeting in the spring of 2004, led NAI Central to establish funding to support cross-team collaborations in E/PO.

Recent examples of national E/PO projects include working with Disney on educational materials in support of the new 3-D IMAX film, "Aliens of the Deep" and educational programming and professional development for NAI E/PO Leads in conjunction with the "Alien Earths" traveling museum exhibit. Collaborative projects managed by the teams include the first Astrobiology Summer Science Experience for Teachers (ASSET,) led by the SETI Institute, with participation from the UA, UCLA, and UH Lead Teams. The CIW and the UH Lead Teams have partnered to share an exhibit on hydrothermal vents with libraries across Hawaii. ARC, in partnership with the Cal Academy of Science, involved the PSU, SI, and VPL Lead Teams in the creation of new exhibits in astrobiology. New collaborations continue to develop, allowing NAI to communicate astrobiology to audiences around the world.

These projects are described in the NAI Annual Report at <http://nai.arc.nasa.gov/year6/>