

Broadening the Impact of EarthScope through Education and Outreach

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Education and outreach have been integrated with EarthScope facilities and research from the beginning, starting with an ambitious program plan in 2002 to create an EarthScope Education and Outreach Network. That network evolved into a partnership between the EarthScope National Office, IRIS, UNAVCO, SAFOD, and many members of the community. In the past 10 years, a wide range of activities has engaged students, teachers, informal educators, and the general public throughout the US. EarthScope has been highlighted in local, regional, national, and international media, and was ranked the “universe’s most epic science project” by Popular Mechanics, while some discoveries have been disseminated using modes of communication such as social media, that weren’t even imagined when EarthScope began. Many students and their advisors have been part of the project, for example, through their involvement in the siting of USArray stations and engagement in summer research using EarthScope data. There have been public displays about EarthScope ranging in scale from descriptive signs on field stations to Active Earth Monitor kiosks to an EarthScope-themed highway rest area. Workshops for informal and classroom educators have increased awareness and understanding of EarthScope, while helping to inspire the next generation of Earth scientists. Going forward to the next big research challenge, we need to continue to include education and outreach opportunities at a range of levels so as to convey the importance of our science to the public and to attract new students to our discipline.