

## ***Connected Science Learning: A Journal to Connect In-School and Out-of-School STEM Educators***

### **Overview:**

The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), in collaboration with the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC), received NSF funding to develop, disseminate and evaluate a new resource that connects in-school and out-of-school education STEM education professionals. OSU's Center for Research on Lifelong STEM Learning (OSU) will conduct a summative evaluation study to translate project goals into outcome measures that document the quality of the final journal product in terms of impacts on targeted communities — including in-school and out-of-school STEM education practitioners — as well as the strategic impacts that the journal has on the field.

### **Scope of Work:**

In early spring of 2017, OSU will implement the summative evaluation study designed to address the following, overarching evaluation question: Does the *Connected Science Learning* journal add value to the field and targeted communities? The summative evaluation study will also explore following sub-questions:

- 1) Is the *Connected Science Learning* journal successful in communicating current research to in-school and out-of-school STEM education practitioners?;
- 2) Does *Connected Science Learning* provide an effective mechanism for connecting educators across settings?;
- 3) To what extent, if at all, has the *Connected Science Learning* journal catalyzed new (or expanded existing) partnerships or connections between in-school and out-of-school STEM education professionals and contexts?

OSU will use the following data collection strategies to gain insight in to these evaluation questions: national survey distributed through project partners (NSTA and ASTC) and other relevant education organizations (e.g., NMEA, Afterschool Alliance, AZA, NAAEE); online focus group discussions with a sample of STEM education practitioners recruited from partner organizations; and phone interviews with the project leadership and other leaders in the field.

### **Broader Impacts:**

The broader, NSF supported project has the potential to connect STEM education practitioners across in-school and out-of-school settings by highlighting successful models and partnerships while also emphasizing effective mechanisms for collaboration. The *Connected Science Learning* journal also aims to connect practitioners to the growing research base in STEM teaching and learning.