The Center for Nanotechnology in Society ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Talking about the social implications of science is somewhat of a departure—and a sometimes uncomfortable one—from traditional science museum content. To help facilitate this shift in museum education, CNS-ASU's Education and Outreach team, in collaboration with the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Net, NSF #0940143), published Nanotechnology and Society: A Practical Guide to Engaging Museum Visitors in Conversations.

Conversations, in addition to the more conventional formats of lecture, demonstration and display, are encouraged for science museum education. From conversation tips to training agendas to improv games, the guide provides numerous practical resources for training museum staff on how to encourage meaningful conversations with visitors about nanotechnology and its future societal implications.

The guide focuses on using the "Three Big Ideas" of technology and society as a conversation framework:

- 1. Values shape technologies
- 2. Technologies affect social relationships
- 3. Technologies work because they're part of *systems*

Starting the Nanotechnology in Society Conversation with Museum Visitors

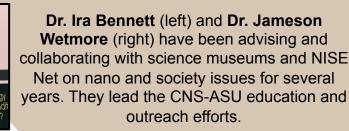
The guide aims to empower museum educators and visitors to explore how emerging nanotechnologies may affect their lives and

Nanotechnology and Society:

A Practical Guide to Engaging Museum Visitors in Conversations



The guide is being used by numerous science museums across the country. The "Three Big Ideas" framework used in the guide is part of a museum staff training program developed by CNS-ASU staff. It can be viewed at Vimeo: http://vimeo.com/channels/nanoandsociety





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