



Building Capacity to Enhance Public
Understanding of STEM Through Rural
Libraries



Funded by the National Science

Hypothesis

1. Rural libraries ideal for reaching new audiences
2. Supporting rural librarians can build capacity
3. Engaging adult STEM programs



Results:

Librarians

- PD matched needs: 86% “Agreed” or “Strongly Agreed”
- Coordinating: 74% “quite a bit” or “a great deal”
- Meeting Objectives: 79% “very” or “extremely” successful

Results:

Participants

- Initial STEM interest: 61% “somewhat” or “less than somewhat”
- Increased interest: 59% “more interested” than expected
- Would attend again: 96%

Lessons Learned

- Importance of partnerships
- New understanding of libraries' roles
- Understanding audience(s) critical
- Importance of “Local Science Partners”
- Feasibility of new STEM audience(s)