Conference final report is at www.mmsa.org/RuralConference2018

11:06:42 **Question: What state are you from and how many years have you worked in rural settings?**

11:08:47 From dalemccreedy : Hi - From Tennessee and here only the last 3.5 years.
11:08:54 From Allyson Morgan : Hi all - I am from Georgia. In my current position, this is the first year with an emphasis on rural areas in Georgia.
11:09:26 From Robert Ross : I,m in central NY State, where I,ve been working for 22 years
11:09:35 From Caitlyn Walker : Illinois :) 6 years
11:09:39 From Norman Porticella : New York State - just getting started
11:10:12 From elizabeth_myers : Massachusetts and just starting
11:11:31 From Stephanie Johnson : Tennessee I work for Extended Learning

11:11:45 **Question: How do you define 'rural'?**
11:11:54 From Norman Porticella : Small towns and farmland
11:12:36 From Stephanie Johnson : In the country--not much access to the city.
11:12:45 From Dennis Schatz : Limited access to resources typically found in more populated parts of the state
11:12:47 From Allyson Morgan : 50,000 people or less
11:12:57 From dalemccreedy : I combine stats that are generated by the state, and my sense of the region and what people tell me about it, the size of the schools and the degree of agriculture-focused work - complicated. Very different from my urban background in informal for decades!
11:13:12 From Caitlyn Walker : 41,Rural, Fringe: Census-defined rural territory that is less than or equal to 5 miles from an urbanized area, as well as rural territory that is less than or equal to 2.5 miles from an urban cluster. 42,Rural, Distant: Census-defined rural territory that is more than 5 miles but less than or equal to 25 miles from an urbanized area, as well as rural territory that is more than 2.5 miles but less than or equal to 10 miles from an urban cluster. 43,Rural, Remote: Census-defined rural territory that is more than 25 miles from an urbanized area and is also more than 10 miles from an urban cluster. (this is from our local codes that describes a schools location, it helps when we define or determine grants and who can apply)
11:13:27 From Robert Ross : areas some distance from a metropolitan center, metro area population >50,000, distance >10 miles (?)

11:26:36 **Question: How have you tried to reach all youth, especially those who might be marginalized by multiple identities?**
11:27:02 From Norman Porticella : Through organizations that serve them
11:27:30 From Allyson Morgan : I am working on highlighting local industry and community partners so they can see the opportunity in their own community in addition to opportunities outside of it.

11:27:59   From Dennis Schatz : Work through organization that are already serving the area of interest, building from their expertise of the population and connections within the community

11:28:12   From dalemccreedy : We have a mobile program and several projects that are designed to be offered outside of museum, but distance is still a challenge. We just submitted a proposal in partnership with our local university and are really trying to think more intentionally about trades and how trades can be access both to STEM careers instantly and to pathways to college

11:28:36   From Tiffany Neill : It so hard to collect data on this, but I I wish there were a way to collect data to better understand the disparities.

11:28:50   From dalemccreedy : WE also work very closely with our county Chamber of Commerce which is quite intentionally working with industry councils they have created.

11:29:05   From Robert Ross : this is a goal, and our interest in this webinar? we provide a wide range of kinds of programs, in the community and at our venues, but it,s not easy with existing staff resources to cover that range; I think it,s one of the challenges of reaching rural audiences ,both diverse and distant

11:29:36   From dalemccreedy : Libraries have also been a good access point for our outreach efforts.

11:29:54   From Robert Ross : we have worked with Cornell Cooperative Extension and 4-H in NYS

11:29:59   From Allyson Morgan : We work to tie those community partners to curriculum standards so it is part of students' learning in the classroom.

11:38:18   From dalemccreedy To Sue Allen(privately) : Sue - would like to know more about virtual training!

11:39:15   **Question: What ways have you had success in building community?**

11:42:19   From dalemccreedy : Building community benefits from finding an internal advocate, listening to needs, approaching with open mind and willingness to learn and challenge own assumptions.

11:42:41   From Allyson Morgan : Listening is the most important part of this process in my experience. I've hosted a variety of meetings to listen about opportunities and local struggles, and we try to create learning experiences out of that.

11:43:16   From dalemccreedy : That said, for more rural communities it may be harder for find access points and people. That is what I have found the dissemination projects most useful for.

11:43:48   From Robert Ross : Perhaps the bringing 4-H leaders (some are educators, others are volunteers) together for workshops and focus groups; focus groups allow more intimate discussions of challenges

11:44:47   From Norman Porticella : We're building a ScienceHub exactly for this purpose. Facilitating equitable partnerships within and across specific topics. We have tons of resources here but nothing to tie it all together. Nothing with a specific goal of tying it together into an strong active community.

11:51:19   From dalemccreedy : For me, it has been all about creating a diverse set of access points! Three years ago we spearheaded the state;s first STEAM Festival. We are also now the lead of the TN Girls Collaborative, and we are implementing several

packaged, STEM programs that have worked together to expand our conversations and connections. We are small - $1.5 with ~20 staff, so this has helped us begin to recognize us as well.

11:51:38 **Question: What are other creative measures of impact that might be especially appropriate in rural places?**

11:56:19 From dalemccreedy : We have cultural days that are free and while participation is still limited by distance, (as it still means that they are at our institution), the diversity of participants - including county of origin   - is something we are trying to capture through a giant zipped map and some surveys. Would love to get to the storytelling, not there yet.

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