

SANTA FE SCIENCE INITIATIVE





Statement from the Board

The Santa Fe Science Initiative (SFSI), a local non-profit organization since 2002, has been dedicated to "Nurturing the Art of Doing Science and Promoting Scientific Literacy in Northern New Mexico." We have focused on encouraging and building teachers' expertise in science and classroom teaching strategies. Our goal has been to provide in-class mentoring, material support and on-going professional development workshops, the Saturday Science Series, plus an annual week of Summer Science Institute for the teachers of Northern New Mexico.

SFSI has maintained and adapted teacher support through direct communication and on-going feedback allowing SFSI a collaborative perspective of the needs of educators. This process provided the means to plan and adapt the focus of that support as circumstances and requirements change and evolve over the years. This past year was a unique case in point.

We have continued this effort in 2020-21 with significant adaptations for teachers in the midst of the COVID pandemic. As teachers have struggled to respond to unprecedented requirements in their profession, SFSI secured the talents and expertise of seasoned professional educators to provide our teachers with a series of stellar virtual workshops. We funded this effort through our long-standing partnership with the Santa Fe Public Schools via Title II resources.

We learned that Zoom gave us an exceptional venue in which to share and interact with teachers in a unique personal way. We also modeled strategies and new ideas to engage students virtually. In addition to science content, teachers received assistance in other curricular areas such as virtual classroom management skills, sharing in virtual break-out sessions and embedding informational literacy strategies in reading and writing with non-fiction text and materials.

These workshops have been a gratifying experience for SFSI staff and board members. As retired and committed educators, we have the utmost respect and compassion for classroom teachers who have been challenged by adaptations to teaching and learning in a virtual environment.

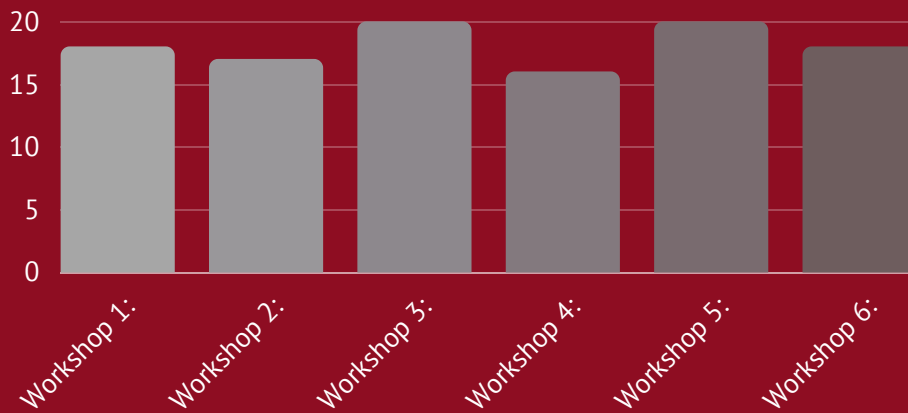
Our contribution of supporting their efforts and expanding their resources has been rewarded by teachers' positive response. We will continue to provide and encourage teachers to reach all students and engage them in science learning.

SFSI will respond to the changing needs of education in Northern New Mexico and work collaboratively to maintain and achieve our mission of supporting professional development and the teaching of science and science literacy in our public schools.

Workshop Attendance

SFSI held six different three-hour Saturday morning workshops throughout the year, with a total of 109 registrants.

- Workshop 1: Neighborhood Habitats, October 2020
- Workshop 2: Science and Literacy, November 2020
- Workshop 3: Geology in your Neighborhood, January 2021
- Workshop 4: Nonfiction Writing, February 2021
- Workshop 5: Bees and Pollinators, March 2021
- Workshop 6: What is in a Seed, April 2021



What Teachers Said...

So much awesome information and ideas for applying these lessons in our classrooms. I learned so much today and have so many ideas now to bring to my classroom

This workshop was so meaningful to me. I gained so much knowledge today. I am going to be able to support my students in a such a powerful way.

Doing the breakout groups with our grade levels [was the most meaningful part of the class]. It was really nice to hear ideas from other teachers and exchange good ideas.

The use of different strategies to deliver the topic to the students even with this remote setting [was helpful].

Absolutely wonderful experience, as usual. It was so much fun and interesting! It always is worth coming in on a Saturday! It never feels like work, and I always walk away with rich, worthwhile activities and ideas to teach on Monday! Thanks for everything!



What Teachers Want More Of...

[I would like] more Science topics with shared activities; hands on activities are always appreciated!

Hikes around New Mexico or Santa Fe to introduce outdoor activities to students and families.

*[More sessions with] experts in their fields! This was AMAZING.
(Evaluation from Bee Workshop)*

Suggestions for future topics: *Native flowers: Endangered and threatened native plants. Weather: Tornadoes, clouds, etc. Integrating science and math. Underground insects and animals. More ESL.*

Next Steps

Summer Science for 2021, Learning from the Natural World, will be designed to respond to teachers' requests. We will offer a hybrid model for a more personal experience for teachers in K-5. We will plan for (2) three-hour Zoom sessions and (1) three-hour outdoor field experience at the Audubon Center on Upper Canyon Road.

Saturday Science for 2021-22 will continue in the Fall. We are proposing six (6) exciting workshops in a hybrid format, at a place to be announced, hoping to have some virtual Zoom workshops and one or two in-person field experiences. Some workshops will be for teachers in K-5 and others for grades 6-8. Our workshop registration will be posted on SFPS Open Access and our website www.SFscience.org.

Additional Next Steps will be posted on our website: www.sfscience.org.

- The Science At Home section will provide additional resources /ideas for teachers and families.
- Videos from 2020-2021 Saturday Science workshops are posted to explore and reference for lesson planning.

