DRL

Promoting innovative research, development, and evaluation of learning and teaching

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keyword DRL

DRL invests in projects to improve the effectiveness of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) learning for people of all ages. Its mission includes:

- Promoting innovative research, development, and evaluation of learning and teaching across all STEM disciplines by advancing cutting-edge knowledge and practices in both formal and informal learning settings

- Broadening and deepening of capacity and impact in the educational sciences by encouraging the participation of scientists, engineers, and educators from the range of disciplines represented at NSF

- Advancing theory, method, measurement, development, and application in STEM education

DRL seeks to advance early, promising innovations as well as larger-scale adoptions of proven educational innovations. In doing so, it challenges the field to create the ideas, resources, and human capacity to bring about the needed transformation of STEM education for the 21st century.

Directorate for Education and Human Resources
National Science Foundation
Programs

DRL’s programs offer a set of complementary approaches for advancing research, development, and field-based improvement strategies.

**Discovery Research K-12 (DR-K12)**

The program enables significant advances in preK-12 student and teacher learning of the STEM disciplines, through research and development of innovative resources, models, and technologies.

**Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST)**

The program builds capacity and innovation in the STEM workforce through the design, implementation, scale-up, and testing of strategies for students and teachers engaged in the creative use of information technologies.

**Informal Science Education (ISE)**

The program seeks to increase interest in, engagement with, and understanding of STEM by individuals of all ages and backgrounds through self-directed STEM learning experiences in science centers, media, after-school programs and other informal settings.

**Promoting Research and Innovation in Methodologies for Evaluation (PRIME)**

The program supports research on evaluation with special emphasis on exploring innovative approaches for determining the impacts of STEM projects and growing the capacity and infrastructure of the evaluation field.

**Research and Evaluation on Education in Science and Engineering (REESE)**

The program advances research at the frontiers of STEM learning, education, and evaluation, and provides the foundation knowledge necessary to improve STEM teaching and learning at all educational levels and in all settings.

**Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)**

The program grants the highest recognition for kindergarten through 12th-grade mathematics or science teachers. In addition to honoring individual achievement, the goal of the award program is to exemplify the highest standards of mathematics and science teaching.

**Other DRL Programs and Activities**

In addition to these core programs, DRL participates in other programs and activities, many in collaboration with other parts of NSF, such as Advanced Technological Education (ATE), Cyberlearning: Transforming Education (Cyberlearning), Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER), Fostering Interdisciplinary Research on Education (FIRE), and Transforming STEM Learning (TSL).

To learn more about these and other programs, visit the NSF website at [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov) and search for DRL.