Using Science to Teach Science: DLESE Annual Meeting Brings Together Researchers and Educators to Enhance Geosciences Learning

L. Bryce 1, A. Pyrtle 1, T. Greely 1, H. Hill 1, S. Lang 2, P. Betzer 1
1University of South Florida, College of Marine Science, 140 7th Ave S., St. Petersburg, FL 33701 (llybryce@marineusf.edu)
2University of South Florida St. Petersburg, College of Education, 140 7th Ave S., St. Petersburg, FL 33701

1. Abstract

The Digital Library for Earth System Education (DLESE) is a distributed community effort involving educators, students, and scientists working together to improve the quality, currency, and efficiency of information and learning about the Earth system and its components. Founded in 2006, DLESE has hosted annual meetings to bring together community members to share knowledge, skills, tools, and strategies. The 2016 DLESE Annual Meeting was held in St Petersburg, Florida. The meeting included a plenary session, workshops, poster sessions, and a field trip. The sessions were designed to highlight the use of Earth system datasets in education and to provide an opportunity for educators and researchers to network and develop new partnerships.

2. Introduction

The purpose of the DLESE Annual Meeting is to bring together educators, students, and researchers to share knowledge and resources related to the teaching and learning of Earth system science. The meeting provides a forum for sharing best practices, new developments, and innovative approaches to teaching and learning Earth system science.

3. Goals of the 2016 Annual Meeting

The goals of the 2016 DLESE Annual Meeting were to:

- Inform and report on the state of the library and recent activities
- Enhance the quality of the library and best practices in all dimensions
- Encourage diversity in all dimensions of library services
- Advance individual professional development

4. Field Trips and Indoor Labs

- First annual meeting to integrate outdoor field trips and indoor labs
- Interactive activities between researchers, educators, and students
- Hands-on applications of DLESE resources
- Opportunities for networking and professional development

5. Results and Evaluations

- Over 56% of participants reported attending workshops and the Share Fair
- Overall, the highest rated activities were the Field Trips
- Based on their experience in the 2016 DLESE Annual Meeting, 92% of participants stated they would return to next year’s conference

Fig. 1. Percentage of sessions attended as reported by conference participants

Fig. 2. Overall evaluation of sessions attended & participation at conference activities

Fig. 3. Overall rating of the conference as a whole at the 2016 DLESE Annual Meeting

6. Conclusion

The conference evaluation results indicate that the 2016 DLESE Annual Meeting met its goals of providing a forum for sharing knowledge and resources related to teaching and learning Earth system science. The meeting provided an opportunity for educators and researchers to network and develop new partnerships. The high rating of the Field Trips and workshop attendance suggest that future meetings should continue to include these activities. The conference was well received by participants, with 92% stating they would return to next year’s event.