



Science Education Research Foundation

What is SeER and what are the ideas behind it?

The Science Education Research Foundation (SeER) is a scientific and educational tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation which funds both the creation and the use of science education research. SeER is based on several core ideas. First, everybody needs access to science education, regardless of their age, gender, race, or class. No learner is more deserving than another learner. Second, no two learners are the same. Their age, experiences, and development uniquely affect how each learns. Third, the crafting of effective science learning starts with research. Science education research investigates the relationships between learners, their individual qualities, and learning methods. Fourth, the true test of science education research is with educators in “real” learning conditions. That is, learning and teaching methods need to be used authentically, not just in experimental settings.

Why was SeER formed?

In short, SeER was formed to fill gaps in science education research and research-informed practice. Research funding gaps occur for various reasons. Organizations that fund research have preferences including the age of participants, the topics being taught, and target topical knowledge such as state curriculum standards. When many funding organizations have similar mainstream preferences, gaps occur. SeER prefers to fund under-explored gap areas with high societal impacts. Preferred characteristics of SeER proposals include engaging pre-college learners, tackling scientific topics that have everyday societal impact, and supporting projects that are translated (or translatable) from lab to classroom. SeER proposals can target either formal or informal educational settings. They can be led by educators, researchers, or partnerships involving both.

How does SeER do its work?

SeER accepts charitable donations from individuals, corporations, and organizations. Proposals for prospective projects are solicited annually in major science and educational publications and through the SeER web site. Proposals are reviewed by SeER’s research committee, which is comprised of teachers, scientists, business leaders, and community leaders. SeER’s grantee proposals are selected, in significant measure, for their anticipated societal impact. SeER grants are not to be used for grantee overhead. SeER’s donors and funded projects are featured in its annual reports, and on its web pages.

I’m interested in what SeER is doing! What’s next?

If SeER’s work sounds interesting to you, please let us know. We would love to hear from you.

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