

Collaborating with Colleagues

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So often, we work in our little bubbles, forgetting that there is a world outside our doors that we need to interact with. But once we start reaching out, our creative juices are flowing!

On our campuses, we are working with students, staff, and faculty. At Rowan University, Amy Barraclough is working with the music department to host concerts and senior projects. At Ocean County College, Cara Muscio is partnering with Counseling Services and doing Ball State's "Sunset Meditation." At Raritan Valley Community College, Amie Gallagher works with the Computer Science department to have students build interactive displays for the exhibit area.

But there's a world beyond our campuses too!

In New Jersey, we are lucky enough to have quite a few planetariums within a few hours' drive of each other. How many planetariums have you visited? How many planetariums have your visitors visited? We are encouraging (challenging?) visitors to visit not just their local planetarium, but the other planetariums in New Jersey! Can they do it in one summer? Or one year? Get your passport stamped at each location!

RVCC Planetarium works with one of the computer science professors and his User Interface Programming class. We go through the whole process of working with a client and producing a product. The class has a tour of the Planetarium to see what we already have and what my needs are. They go back to class to brainstorm projects. A week or two later, they do a client presentation for me, to sell me on their ideas. I get to choose one or two for them to work on. The most successful project the students have done is a Solar System information program. It's loaded on a touch screen so visitors can tap on a planet and get a list of facts about it.

The Novins Planetarium has been making connections across curricula to engage college and K-12 students beyond STEM. We are working with our instructors to provide cross-discipline programming to share with our students, collaborating on class projects centered around the Planetarium, and are discussing how to utilize the planetarium for hands-on experiences for technology and education students. Our major collaboration for the coming year is with Performing Arts in a series called "Intersections", which will feature student music recitals to astronomy themed pieces, a dance performance based around the various world constellation mythologies, and

three cultural performances that integrate arts and science in the Grunin Center and Planetarium Theater.

The Edelman Planetarium at Rowan University has been collaborating with faculty across disciplines to offer unique experiences for students and the public. Working with faculty and students in the College of Performing Arts, we have started a new live performance series, Harmonia Cosmica, and the Capstone Music Industry showcase for seniors to debut their EPs. In addition, we are finishing a multi-disciplinary documentary project that brought together students and faculty in the School of Earth and Environment and the Department of Radio, TV, and Film to create a short documentary for the planetarium exploring southern New Jersey's rich glass traditions.