**Energizing the Floor with Current Science**

**A successful current science programs initiative will energize the visitor experience and position OMSI as a trusted resource for our community in issues and topics that are relevant to their lives.**

* **OMSI visitors and program participants will easily access information about the range of current science program offerings that are available to them.** We will frame program opportunities like Brain Fair, Science Pub, Living Laboratory, Meet a Scientist, and Research Team camps in a way that is cohesive.
* **OMSI visitors will regularly meet and engage with local scientists on our floor at our new monthly *Meet a Scientist* Program.** Scientists will facilitate hands-on, engaging programs frequently (at first on the second Saturday of each month, later on every weekend). Scientists will talk with OMSI visitors about cutting edge research happening right here in Oregon at universities, government agencies and corporations.
* **Scientists at OMSI’s *Meet a Scientist* program will be friendly and accessible.** They won’t use too much jargon, and they will be ready to facilitate hands-on demos and activities about their own research. They will proudly wear pins stating "I am a Scientist.” Scientists will bring skills that they learned in the *Science Communication Short Course* (like questioning, storytelling, and using compelling analogies) to their interactions with visitors.

**A successful current science programs initiative will be financially sustainable and allow OMSI to efficiently leverage relationships with scientist partners and volunteers to support mutual goals.**

* **Frame and promote OMSI’s many current science programs cohesively to potential science organization and scientist partners.** Help external partners connect in meaningful ways with OMSI, and leverage relationship across platforms to drive deeper participation.
* **Establish an institutional structure for scientist relationship management through a *Science Communication Fellowship* program.** This program will support, retain, and build our corps of scientist volunteers who are committed to regularly participating in our programming.
* **Provide OMSI Fellows science communication professional development by requiring participation in a *Science Communication Short Course*** . This will ensure 1) quality of scientist-visitor conversations and 2) quality of the hands-on activities and experiences that scientists bring to our floor.
* **Scientist volunteers will be a resource for a range of OMSI programs through the *OMSI Science Communication Fellowship* program.** These scientists will be trained in science communication, and will have hands-on activities about their work ready to use. Food scientists will bring their demos to Theory for OMSI After Dark, engineers will participate in Maker Faire, and climatologists will be on hand for Science on a Sphere demos after major events, like hurricanes. Scientists will be called on for press interviews, will act as project advisors, and will approach us frequently with new opportunities for collaborative work.
* **Ground initiative in a scalable business plan that leverages previously untapped funding sources.**
	+ Pursue grants only available to us through direct collaboration with researchers (e.g., broader impacts)
	+ Fee-based professional development for scientists