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Executive Summary

Both in the U.S. and worldwide, most adults are supportive of science and strongly believe that scientific advances can benefit society. Views about scientists themselves, however, are complicated: while generally respected as competent experts, scientists are often perceived as cold, arrogant, and hostile to people of faith.

About 70% of U.S. adults say they are religious, including many scientists. However, even scientists of faith may be uncomfortable having conversations about science topics that explicitly involve religious perspectives, or they may not know where to start.

Research suggests that facts are not enough when engaging with the public on science topics. People’s views on these issues are shaped by many factors, not just facts and data. Inclusive science engagement that recognizes culture, values, faith, and identity is critical to ensure that the process of science is responsive to, and can benefit, all people.

The AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) program, in collaboration with the AAAS Center for Public Engagement with Science and Technology (CPE), developed the Engaging Scientists in the Science and Religion Dialogue project (“Engaging Scientists”) to help scientists and science communicators better engage with people of faith. The project focused on evidence-based, inclusive approaches for engaging the largely religious public about science and technology, drawing on real-world examples and perspectives from a diverse group of scientists and science communicators.

Major project activities included creating:

• A workshop on engaging with people of faith about science, given at scientific society meetings, universities, and other institutions and organizations;
• Other events and programming at scientific society meetings and universities;
• A rich library of resources, including videos and an ongoing profile series, all available at ScienceReligionDialogue.org.

More than 1000 people attended an Engaging Scientists workshop from 2017 to 2021, and hundreds more attended the science society and university events. Attendees who took a post-workshop survey were significantly more likely to feel skilled at, and comfortable with, engaging with people of faith about science topics compared to pre-workshop survey respondents.

The Engaging Scientists project has been a key part of DoSER’s growing visibility and standing in the science communication and engagement field. Several components of the project will continue as core DoSER activities, including the workshop and the profile series. Through this project, the DoSER program has established new relationships within both scientific and faith communities that will inform AAAS’s approach to engagement for years to come.
Project Background and Goals

The Engaging Scientists project launched in 2016 as a collaboration between DoSER and the AAAS Center for Public Engagement with Science and Technology (CPE). More than 7 in 10 U.S. adults identify as religious.\textsuperscript{1,2} Popular media is dominated by rhetoric about a “war on science,”\textsuperscript{3} implying that the public increasingly rejects science and scientific expertise, and religion is often cited as a factor in individuals’ rejection of science or scientific evidence.\textsuperscript{4,5} However, polls and social science research consistently find that, both in the U.S. and worldwide, adults (both religious and otherwise) are interested in science, believe that scientific advances can benefit society, and support funding for scientific research by wide margins.\textsuperscript{6,7,8} Many respondents also express concerns about the harmful impacts of scientific and technological advances and the inequitable distribution of their benefits.

Surveys and social science research also consistently suggest that the public tends to view scientists as cold, arrogant, unconcerned with the impacts of their research, and hostile or indifferent to religious perspectives and those who hold religious beliefs.\textsuperscript{4,9,10,11} Although there is disagreement between scientists and the public on some specific issues, often these are issues that are socially or politically contested (e.g., climate change) or that intersect with values or identity (e.g., the use of animals in medical testing, or evolution, or whether genetically modified foods are safe).\textsuperscript{12} More than 70\% of U.S. adults, including many scientists, claim a religious affiliation,\textsuperscript{13} which can inform ideas about science and technology topics. However, even scientists and STEM students who are religious themselves may be uncomfortable disclosing or sharing about their religious identity in science contexts, or how that informs their perspectives on science and society issues.\textsuperscript{14}

For years, prominent voices in science communication and engagement have signaled that “facts are not enough”\textsuperscript{15} and that people learn about science “from others who share their values and whom they therefore trust and understand.”\textsuperscript{16} AAAS developed the Engaging Scientists project in response to growing recognition that scientists should seek to develop skills...
Scientists are often interested in engaging with faith communities, but may feel that they lack the skills or expertise to engage effectively.

in science communication and engagement with a diverse (and largely religious) public, grounded in evidence-based practices. One of the project’s overarching goals was to promote richer and more impactful discourse about science and society issues. Scientists and science communicators, whether people of faith or not, are often interested in engaging with faith communities about science. However, many scientists feel that they lack the skills or expertise to engage effectively, feel uncertain about what kind of work is happening in this space already, or don’t know how to get started.

The DoSER program has a 25-year history of fostering communication and engagement between scientific and religious communities about science. In collaboration with CPE, DoSER is uniquely positioned to develop and promote toolkits, resources, and opportunities for scientists, science communicators, religious scholars, and faith leaders to learn about and participate in inclusive and impactful science and society engagement.

The primary goals of the project were:

• Increasing recognition within the scientific community of the importance of science communication and engagement, in particular with people of faith;
• Supporting impactful science and society discourse as a component of scientists’ professional development;
• Encouraging greater awareness and use of inclusive, evidence-based approaches for engaging the largely religious public about science and technology; and
• Creating and promoting opportunities for scientists and members of faith communities to share with and learn from each other about science and its applications.

The major activities and outputs of the Engaging Scientists project included:

• A new workshop on science engagement with faith communities for scientists, science communicators, and educators;
• Science society events, including contributions to meeting programming and workshops;
University campus events, including both public events and workshops for scientists;
• A contest to recognize proposals for science engagement with faith communities from university campus event participants;
• A library of free print, video, and online resources to support and inform science engagement with faith communities;
• Making connections between scientists and faith community representatives interested in science engagement.

The project was funded by a grant from the John Templeton Foundation, with additional support from a private donor and AAAS. Though originally planned to span three years, the Engaging Scientists project was ultimately extended into a five-year project that concluded in June 2021.

Project Activities

Workshop

A major component of the Engaging Scientists project was the co-development of a workshop with CPE on Science Engagement with Faith Communities, which DoSER and CPE continue to offer under a fee-for-service model. This interactive workshop integrates content from the CPE Science Communication Fundamentals workshop with additional context on U.S. religious demographics, insights from social sciences, the role of values and identity in science engagement, and best practices for science engagement with people of faith. The workshop’s final exercise is an opportunity to apply the workshop content to respond to a challenging question or scenario with fellow attendees. The workshop was part of all Engaging Scientists science society and university campus events.

Workshop attendees are encouraged to move beyond the idea of science communication as correcting knowledge “deficits” in the public, to AAAS’s concept of public engagement with science as “intentional, meaningful interactions that provide opportunities for mutual learning between scientists and members of the
Three central takeaways for workshop attendees interested in science engagement with faith communities are to “be strategic, be respectful, and be human.”

Participants in the project workshop at the 2019 AAAS Annual Meeting.

Science Society Events

Through the Engaging Scientists project, DoSER sponsored program contributions (including hosting the Science Engagement with Faith Communities workshop) at the meetings of seven different science societies between 2017 and 2020 [Table 1]. The scope of these events varied. In some cases, the DoSER program invited a guest speaker from within the fields of astronomy (at AAS) and genetics (at ASHG) to discuss faith community engagement. Others were poster symposia (AGU) or large podium sessions with multiple speakers (SfN, AABA, AAAS) presenting a range of projects and perspectives on inclusive science engagement. For one virtual conference, Engaging Scientists offered an online webinar with guest speakers on science engagement with seminary students and with Indigenous communities (SACNAS). Given the enthusiastic interest in the workshop from meeting attendees, the program returned in subsequent years to offer the workshop again at several of these society meetings (AGU, AAS, AAAS).

Beyond these events and workshops, DoSER staff reported on or shared Engaging Scientists project activities and content (poster
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Theme or Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Society for Neuroscience (SfN)</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Social Issues Roundtable (and separate workshop)</td>
<td>Engaging Neuroscientists in Dialogue with Religious Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Geophysical Union (AGU)</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Poster Symposium (and separate workshop)</td>
<td>Science Engagement with Faith Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2018-2020</td>
<td>Workshop only</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Astronomical Society (AAS)</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Workshop w/ guest speaker Dr. Salman Hameed</td>
<td>Astronomy Engagement with Diverse Publics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Workshop only</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Association of Physical Anthropologists* (AAPA)</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Podium Symposium (and separate workshop)</td>
<td>Biological Anthropology and Dialogue with Diverse Publics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG)</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Workshop w/ guest speaker Dr. Ting Wu</td>
<td>Science Communication and Engagement with Religious Publics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Podium Symposium (and separate workshop)</td>
<td>Science Engagement with Faith Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2020-2021</td>
<td>Workshop only</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society for Advancing Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Sponsored Session</td>
<td>Science Engagement with Faith Communities: Honoring Identity, Culture and Worldview</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In 2021, the organization changed its name to the American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA)*

**Table 1. DoSER Engaging Scientists events at science society meetings.**
presentations, podium presentations, or exhibitor booths) at over a dozen science society meetings, events, and conferences. These provided additional opportunities to highlight the importance of science engagement with faith communities for diverse scientific audiences and institutional representatives.

**University Events**

In 2017, DoSER put out a call for proposals to universities interested in hosting a DoSER event on their campus. From 18 applications, six institutions were selected by DoSER staff and the project advisory committee in 2018 [Table 2]. The project supported a robust slate of public programming on these campuses. Themes included broadening science engagement within diverse communities (Howard University, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), Indiana University), artificial intelligence (Texas State University), conservation and environmental justice (Stanford University), and human evolution (Vanderbilt University). Three presentations from the Howard University event became part of the TEDx library through a collaboration with TEDxLeDroitPark, and videos from
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus Event</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Theme or Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas State University</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Public event</td>
<td>How AI Influences Our Understanding of Human Intelligence (and Vice Versa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Panel discussion</td>
<td>Science Communication and Engagement with Faith Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford University</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Public event</td>
<td>Science and Spirituality in Conversation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Maryland, Baltimore County</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Public event</td>
<td>Science Engagement and Dialogue with Faith Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanderbilt University</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Public event</td>
<td>Being Human: the Nexus of Science and Spirituality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Panel discussion</td>
<td>Where Science and Society Meet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard University</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>Engaging Scientists in the Science and Religion Dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Symposium</td>
<td>Beyond the Research: A Transdisciplinary Dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TEDxLeDroitPark event</td>
<td>Translation to Transformation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana University</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Public event</td>
<td>Science Engagement and Science Practice within Indigenous Communities: Honoring Faith, Culture and Worldview</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 2. DoSER Engaging Scientists events at university campuses.*
events at UMBC, Indiana, and Texas State were created by the DoSER program and published online. Three institutions (Texas State, Howard, and Vanderbilt) also held additional public town halls, symposia, or panels in addition to the larger public events. Finally, as part of each campus event, the DoSER workshop on engagement with faith communities was offered to graduate students, faculty, and staff.

**Public Engagement Award Contest**

Attendees at the six university event workshops were invited to submit proposals for projects on science engagement with faith communities, developed in collaboration with a faith community representative. In 2019, 18 winning entries, from five of the participating institutions, were announced and awarded $1000 each. Winning projects focused on topics such as “The

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Flyer for event at Vanderbilt University, March 2019.

Flyer from workshop and panel at Indiana University, April 2019.
Science of Salaat” (Howard University), a classroom discussion to engage “Diverse Ethical and Religious Views on the Study of Evolutionary Biology” (UMBC), and a multi-day “Science-Faith Dialogue in the Indiana Heartland” with evangelical communities about conservation and climate change (Indiana University).

In 2020, DoSER highlighted the winning proposals on our website, including pictures and documents from engagement events. DoSER invited the public to identify a favorite to recognize as the “Public’s Choice.” The project of Howard University graduate student Myeshia Shelby, “Therapeutic Treatments for Cancer: Fostering a Dialogue Within a Faith Community,” was ultimately selected. A complete list of project proposals and the associated activities is available online.

Resources
The Engaging Scientists project provided financial support for the creation of DoSER’s new resource website,
As her public engagement project, Myeshia Shelby discussed her research on genetics and cancer with the Mt. Hebron Missionary Baptist Church community. Photo courtesy M. Shelby.

Participants discussing climate change and the environment at Michael Hamburger and Adrienne Kelly’s event at Indiana University, part of a series of three workshops in 2019. Photo courtesy M. Hamburger.
ScienceReligionDialogue.org, which launched in December 2020. The website hosts all media resources developed through the Engaging Scientists project, as well as resources from other DoSER projects, events, and activities. Additional resources are added regularly to the website, including print materials, videos, and articles from AAAS.org.

DoSER released the first Engaging Scientists project resource, *Scientists in Civic Life: Facilitating Dialogue-Based Communication*, in 2018. Written by science communication scholar Dr. Matt Nisbet of Northeastern University, the booklet provides an overview of science communication research. It includes discussion of public perceptions of science, and strategies for engagement with a wide range of publics who hold diverse worldviews, values, and beliefs. As of June 2021, *Scientists in Civic Life* has been downloaded more than 750 times, and more than 1000 physical copies have been distributed. It has also been used as a resource in two graduate-level science communication courses, and by other organizations working on inclusive science engagement with diverse audiences.

Beginning in June 2020, the Engaging Scientists project launched the *Profiles in Science Engagement with Faith Communities* series. As of December 2021, the series will include 22 profiles of scientists spanning different career stages, fields, interests, and backgrounds. Some profiles are of scientists of faith, others are not, but all highlight activities with common themes of respect, empathy, and collaboration around shared interests and values.

As a scientist working in a different culture than her own, profilee Dr. Gillian Hue reflected that “It’s become really important for me to stay cognizant of my own assumptions that I’m bringing to the conversation...understanding what [your biases] are, and checking them, as you plan your engagement is the biggest lesson that I’ve learned.” Dr. Nate Matias framed science engagement as fundamentally a process of making science relevant in ways that engage with people’s existing identities: “We want to help people bridge between what they’re experiencing and the traditions and understanding that they
already have—to make sense of these emerging questions in ways that are still grounded in the engineering and science of what’s possible, and what’s real.”

All profiles are available on the program’s resource website and can also be downloaded as PDFs, and print copies are available for in-person distribution. These profiles were so well received by the public that DoSER intends to continue the series for the foreseeable future, profiling several scientists each year.

In 2021, as a final project resource, DoSER created a video series on *Science Engagement with Faith Communities*. These four short videos highlight key concepts and ideas from the DoSER workshop, and feature scientists profiled in the project as examples and case studies for inclusive and impactful science engagement with faith communities. Videos are available at [ScienceReligionDialogue.org/resources/engagement-video-series](http://ScienceReligionDialogue.org/resources/engagement-video-series).

Many presentations from the science society and university events, as well as other presentations supported by the Engaging Scientists in the Science and Religion Dialogue: Final Report January 2022
In 2007, I wanted to create a program that would combine my talents and interests. I decided to focus on my family, and my other Indigenous community is Ojibwe. My husband is Ojibwe and I am mixed-race Lakota. My tribe is of the Lakota from the Lower Sioux Agency. I grew up in Minnesota and went to St. Cloud State University in Minnesota, and I studied in Native Studies. I was inspired by my undergraduate research on Dakota Ojibwe star knowledge, the challenges of interdisciplinary work, and the importance of avoiding the “grab and go” research model. Above photo: Annette Lee. Credit: J. Woods/St. Cloud State University.

How and why did you start working to revitalize Indigenous star knowledge and astronomy?

I got into the sciences and astronomy because I watched Carl Sagan’s show Cosmos back in 1984 when it aired in Pakistan. I was in 9th grade at the time, and astronomy excited me. I got into the sciences and astronomy because I watched Carl Sagan’s show Cosmos back in 1984 when it aired in Pakistan. I was in 9th grade at the time, and astronomy excited me. It took another 17 years for me to get my PhD. But to create science engagement with the public in a way that is important and meaningful, I have to be a scientist and an artist. I appreciate the unique perspective and storytelling skills that come from being an artist, and I was blown away—I wanted to be an astronomer. It is a very old dream of mine that I’ve had for many years. How and why did you start working to revitalize Indigenous star knowledge and astronomy?

How and why did you start working to revitalize Indigenous star knowledge and astronomy?

You became an astronomer because you were fascinated by Cosmos! Tell us about that.

I got interested in math at a young age. I was captivated by the way that mathematics could take something abstract and make it tangible. My father was an engineer, and I remember him doing calculations on the blackboard. I was always fascinated by patterns, and I loved the way that math could reveal hidden structures. I remember sitting in my room and trying to understand the multiplication table, and I was amazed by the patterns that I discovered. I knew that I wanted to be a mathematician when I was very young. How and why did you start working to revitalize Indigenous star knowledge and astronomy?

Francis Su is the Benediktsson-Karwa Professor of Mathematics at Harvey Mudd College and author of the book Mathematics for Human Flourishing. We spoke with him about the wonder in math, how math addresses some of our deepest questions and longings, and approaches to inclusive teaching. (All photos courtesy of the author except where noted.)

How does your work intersect with scientific, ethical, and religious issues?

I'm also a practicing Muslim and have given lectures on human evolution in Islam, and I have worked with fellow Muslim scientists to discuss how one can maintain religious faith while remaining true to the science. How does your work intersect with scientific, ethical, and religious issues?

A selection of cover images from the Profiles in Science Engagement with Faith Communities series.
Scientists project, have been recorded and are available to the public at aaas.org/DoSER and ScienceReligionDialogue.org, and through AAAS’s YouTube channel, totaling more than 30 video products to date.

Network

The Engaging Scientists Network was launched in 2017 to help establish connections between scientists and faith community representatives. During the life of the project, 100 scientists and 30 community representatives signed up for the network, including the 18 scientists winning the campus event Public Engagement awards and their collaborators. Although the network was closed to new registrants at the conclusion of the project, DoSER will continue to explore and evaluate how best to provide resources for scientists who wish to get involved in religiously inclusive engagement and connect them with opportunities for engagement through our program, external activities, social media, our newsletter, and other channels.

Additional Project Activities

Although primarily envisioned as a means to engage scientists, the Engaging Scientists project also received an extremely positive reception from informal science learning (ISL) practitioners and educators (including those working and volunteering at museums and science centers), as well as from the broader science communication community. As part of the project, the workshop was offered to staff and volunteers at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History, the National Aquarium in Baltimore, and the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. A condensed version of the workshop was offered at the SIGNS Summit in 2018, the Inclusive SciComm Conference in 2019, and at the virtual SciTalk Conference in 2021. As part of the project activities, DoSER staff contributed a chapter to a 2019 book released by the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) press, and a 2021 commentary in the Journal of Science Communication.

Project Impacts

More than 1000 people attended DoSER workshops between 2017 and 2021 and hundreds of other scientists and science communicators have been impacted.
2017 and 2021. Beyond the audiences of public events at universities and in science society programming, hundreds of other scientists and science communicators have been impacted through attending presentations or engaging with resources created and disseminated through the project. DoSER AAAS website visits increased by more than 50% during the project timeline, from 39,566 visits in 2018 to 59,194 visits in 2020.

Pre-workshop surveys found that even before attending the workshop, participants recognized that public engagement should be informed by attitudes and perspectives of the audience. A comparison of pre- and post-workshop surveys identified significant shifts in self-assessed skill at “Engaging with religious audiences about science topics” and “Responding to comments or questions about science that are informed by faith beliefs,” and greater comfort in “Engaging with religious/spiritual publics about science topics.”

Figure 1

How skilled do you feel:
Engaging with religious audiences about science topics?

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pre-workshop</th>
<th>Post-workshop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Skilled</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Skilled Nor Unskilled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$n = 422$  
$n = 311$
Figure 2
How skilled do you feel:
Responding to comments or questions about science that are informed by faith beliefs?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Post-workshop</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Skilled</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither Skilled Nor Unskilled</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Post-workshop: n = 422
Pre-workshop: n = 311

Figure 3
“I am comfortable engaging with religious/spiritual publics about science topics.”

<table>
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<th>Post-workshop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor disagree</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Post-workshop: n = 307
Pre-workshop: n = 406
66% of post-workshop survey respondents requested additional resources or otherwise reached out to engage with the DoSER program following the workshop. 89% of attendees reported that they would recommend the workshop to a colleague.

An external evaluator conducted a follow-up survey (n=44) and interviews (n=12) with attendees 6 to 12 months after the workshop, and found that these self-reported impacts were positive and lasting. Though few of these respondents indicated they were doing new or more targeted engagement with faith communities, most interviewees signaled that they were more thoughtful and intentional about addressing religious and spiritual dimensions of worldview and identity in their ongoing public engagement, including making changes to their pedagogy in science classrooms.

Feedback from the workshop included many positive comments from attendees. One shared that attending the workshop “completely changed the way I think about religious groups as an audience—they are engaged members of the public. The workshop emphasized the importance of finding common ground.” A respondent from an ISL institution noted that “[the workshop] had immediate impact...one of my team members used the information to completely transform her approach to our volunteer staff.”

**Impacts on the DoSER Program**

The Engaging Scientists project has been a major contributor to DoSER’s growing visibility and standing in the science communication and engagement field and has helped to establish a larger and stronger network of contacts and relationships for our work engaging with faith communities. Several components of the project will continue as core DoSER activities. The *Profiles in Science Engagement with Faith Communities* series will continue to feature several scientists a year, highlighting examples and best practices from diverse scientists. In collaboration with AAAS CPE, DoSER will continue to offer the Science Engagement with Faith Communities workshop under a fee-for-service model. Finally, the media resources (print, electronic, and video) and the new resource “[The workshop] completely changed the way I think about religious groups as an audience—they are engaged members of the public. The workshop emphasized the importance of finding common ground.”
website (ScienceReligionDialogue.org) created through the project will remain free and available to the public, in support of DoSER’s long-standing mission to support communication and engagement about science between scientific and religious communities.

Amid the global coronavirus pandemic, the ongoing challenges of vaccine development, hesitancy, and equitable distribution illustrate in stark terms that science and technology have a cultural, historical, and political context, and that science communication and engagement have a critical role in the public sphere. DoSER’s work through the Engaging Scientists in the Science and Religion Dialogue project reflects the program’s commitment to fostering constructive, evidence-based engagement about science and society issues with faith communities. The five-year project supported the development of approaches, resources, and relationships that will serve the program in good stead through the years to come.

This project has also served to integrate DoSER’s engagement with faith communities into the larger efforts and broader mission of the AAAS to advance science, engineering and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all people. DoSER is immensely grateful to the scientists, students, educators, faith leaders, and community representatives with whom we have shared and learned over the course of this project, and look forward to continuing this important work.

As noted by Dr. Fatimah Jackson of Howard University, a project advisor, speaker at several project events, and one of the scientists in the Profiles in Science Engagement with Faith Communities, “It is possible to convey the fundamental aspects of all the science that we do in a cultural context that’s relevant for the people. That’s probably the most important thing that we do in science—to make it real and important for the people that we’re speaking to.”

 “[The workshop] had an immediate impact...one of my team members used the information to completely transform her approach to our volunteer staff.”
References

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