On March 19, 2013, 12 middle and high school teachers from 11 different states plus Puerto Rico gathered together for a 90-minute teleconference as their second meeting as Lead Teachers of a new Heliophysics Community of Practice (CoP) for formal educators.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communities of Practice</th>
<th>What’s the Purpose?</th>
<th>Who belongs?</th>
<th>How clear are the boundaries?</th>
<th>What holds them together?</th>
<th>Lifespan of group</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To create, expand, and exchange knowledge and develop individual capabilities</td>
<td>Self-selection based on expertise or passion for a topic</td>
<td>Fuzzy</td>
<td>Passion, commitment, and identification with the group and its expertise</td>
<td>Evolve and end organically (lasts as long as there is relevance to the topic and value and interest in learning together)</td>
<td>Informal student group from a college class, cohort group, CoP of Heliophysics Teachers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussions included:
• Defining the characteristics of a “community of practice” compared to other types of groups;
• Use of Wiggio (http://wiggio.com) as an online discussion and planning platform;
• Determining the possible primary intent of the Heliophysics CoP as being focused on:
  • Best-practices– Members focus on sharing and learning best practices related to teaching heliophysics;
  • Knowledge– Members focus on gaining and sharing knowledge such as content related to heliophysics and current NASA missions.

The Heliophysics Community of Practice for formal educators is a multi-mission effort that is currently led by the THEMIS-ARTEMIS Education/Public Outreach and supported by the Van Allen Probes and IBEX. The Heliophysics E/PO Forum is helping with this collaborative project through facilitation and literature reviews.

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