



Heliophysics Community of Practice for Formal Educators

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.

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

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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