Teaching the Teachers: Providing Data Visualization Summer Institutes

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2020 Virtual Science On a Sphere Users Collaborative Network Workshop
MSU’s Immersive Visualization “Ecosystem”
Why is this important for teachers?

Planetarium Sky Theater

360 Room

Science On a Sphere
Summer Program for Grad Student Teachers & Faculty

2-3 months
Planning, recruiting, instructional design

1 week
The 3 technologies
Data visualization/immersion
Pedagogy & best practices
Demos & experiences

2 months
Create teaching module or course component
Follow up & support
Quick Format for Teaching & Learning

- Provided in-depth exposure to the technologies
- Increased efficacy for teachers
- Created a network among the peers and presenters (during sessions and future)
- Explored possibilities and limitations of the technologies for teaching

Zappar target by Stacey Fox
In-person (2019) vs. Virtual (2020)

● **Virtual format**
  ○ Flexible for participants during the summer
  ○ Sessions recorded for review and future use
  ○ No transportation and transition time worries
  ○ Could not use technology in person - hard to envision how things work
  ○ Hard to assist people with technology instruction online

● **In person**
  ○ Better for hands-on workshops
  ○ Better feel for the sizes and affordances of spaces

● **Both**
  ○ Created community in different ways (break out rooms, etc.)
  ○ Instruction was (mostly!) comparable for both formats
How an Ecosystem Can Support Teachers

- Different affordances
- Match data type and technology
- Support for exploration
- Synergy
- Using same materials in different ways
Questions?