

# A Wiki for Informal Learning at Field Stations

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Field stations are uniquely positioned to offer place-based informal STEM education to the public. In fact, 98% of the U.S. population lives within 120 miles of a field station and 78% live within 60 miles (Figure 1), and advancing informal STEM learning is a key component of many field station missions and goals.

What is a wiki?

A wiki is a collaborative online space that allows a community of users to add and edit content in a website or database.

Through an ongoing, NSF-funded survey of U.S. field stations, we have captured 203 qualities of more than 300 informal learning programs at over 160 field stations so far. To share that information in a tangible and meaningful way with all field stations, we will seed a community-driven online wiki with our survey results (Figure 2).

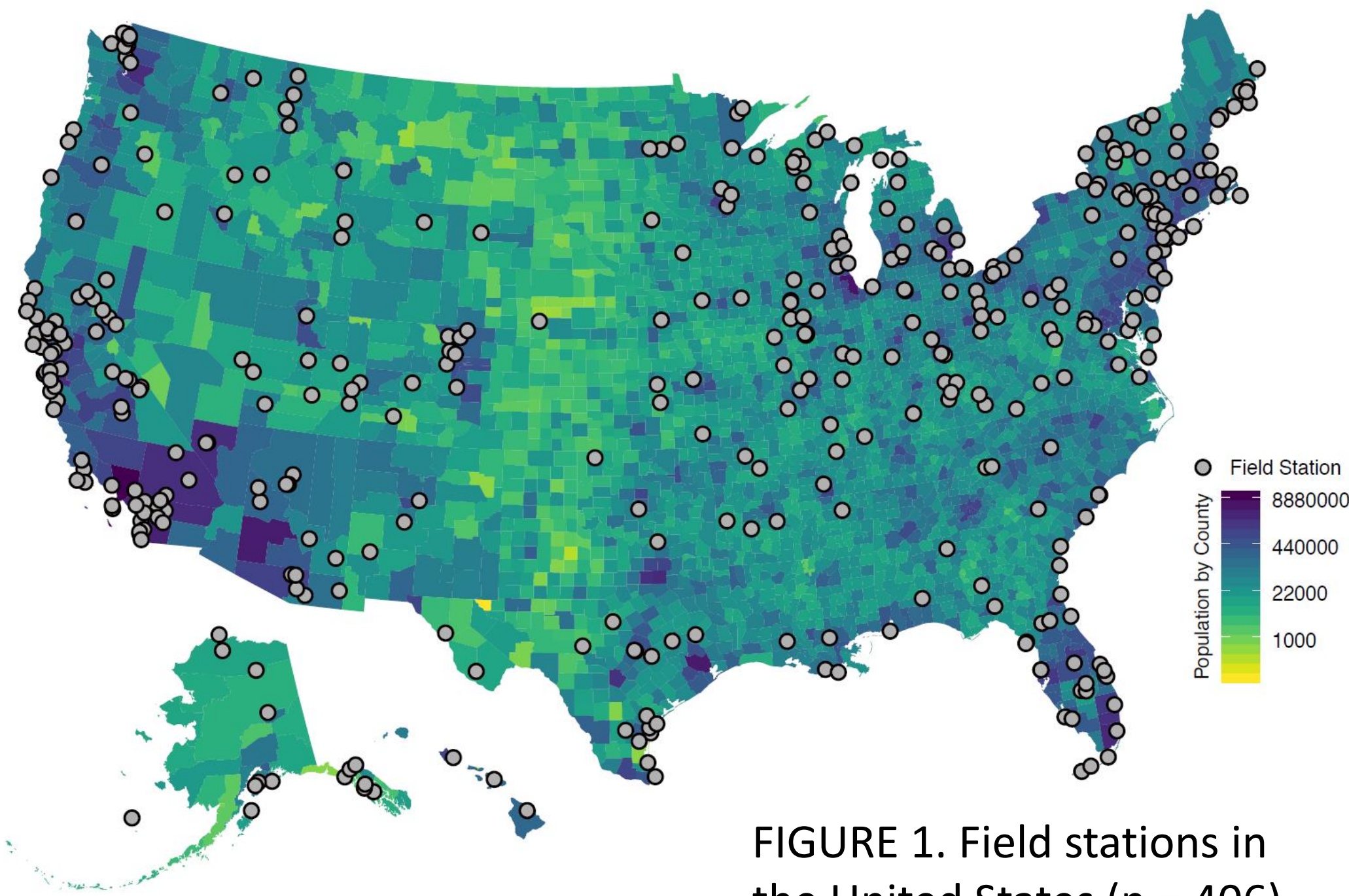


FIGURE 1. Field stations in the United States (n = 406).

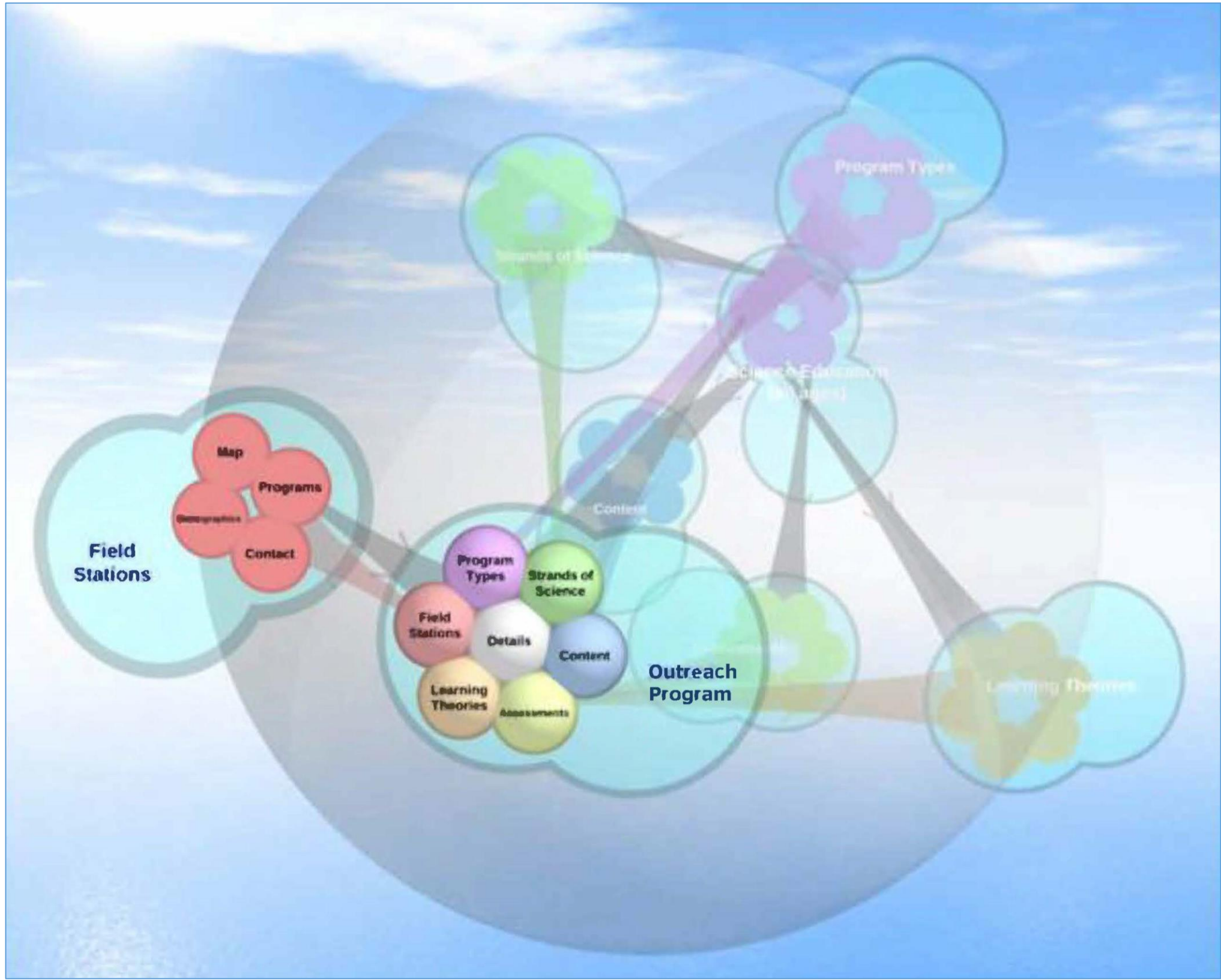
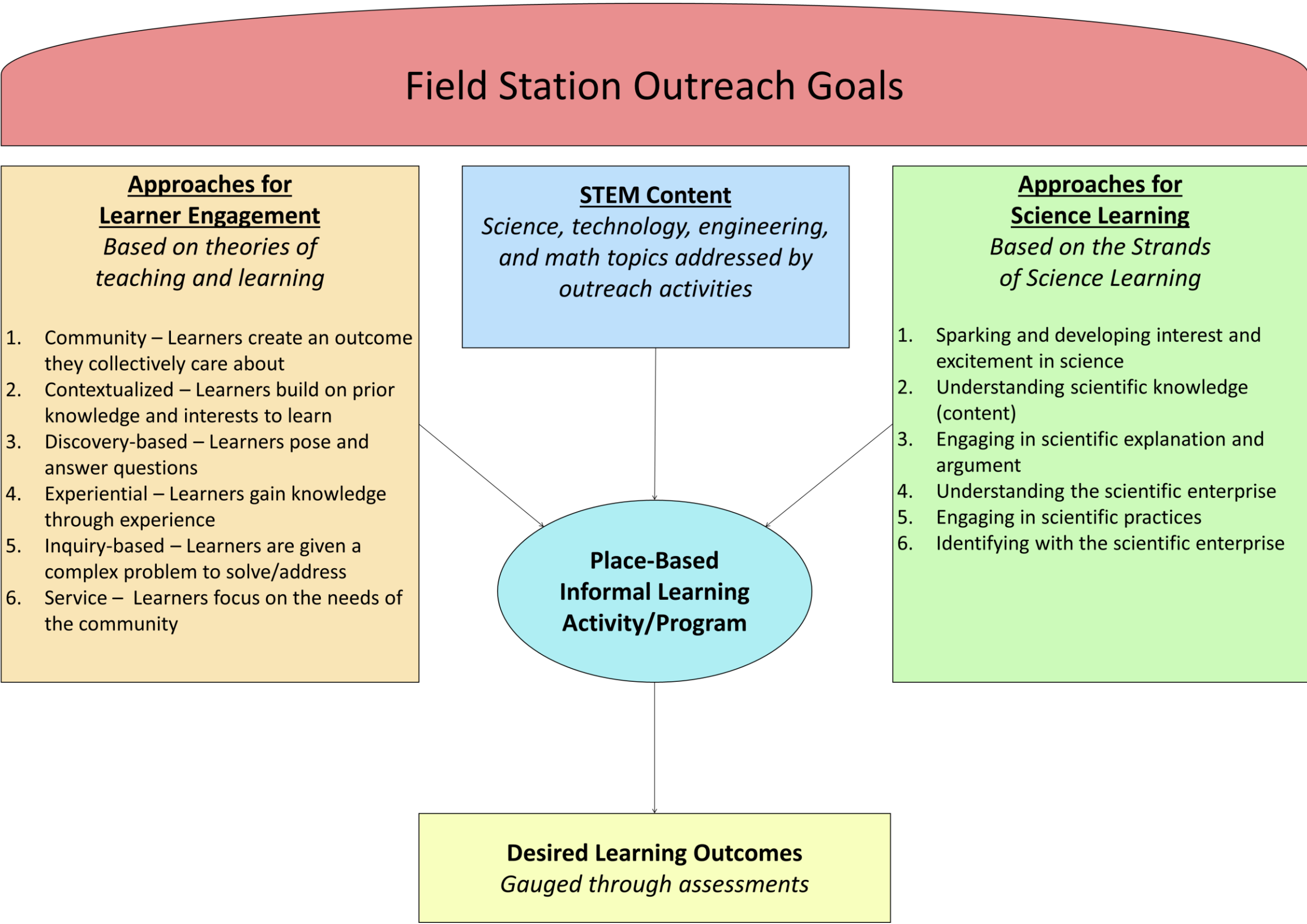


FIGURE 2. Informal STEM learning framework based on survey results (left; Struminger et al., *in press*, *Bioscience*). The framework will be transformed into an online wiki (right) for the outreach community.

We need you!

The wiki will serve three primary purposes:

share ideas and examples of outreach

support a collaborative network for informal educators

disseminate resources for planning outreach

Outreach providers will be able to gather ideas to improve their own offerings and contribute original programming to share with other field stations. Wiki development therefore depends on input from field stations that will use and contribute to this resource.

Questions? Visit [www.fieldstationoutreach.info](http://www.fieldstationoutreach.info) or email [rachel.a.short@tamu.edu](mailto:rachel.a.short@tamu.edu) for more information!

This project benefitted from discussions with Lauren Vilen, Jeffrey Rodriguez, and countless field station personnel. Funding was provided by NSF-DRL 1713359, NSF-DRL 1713351, a College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Merit Fellowship (Texas A&M), and a Dishman-Lucas Graduate Assistantship (Texas A&M).

Give us your thoughts!

I would like the wiki to...

It would be helpful if the wiki...