Kevin Crowley Involved in CMNH

Kevin Crowley is having quite a year. One, he has been chosen as a Distinguished Fellow of the W.T. Grant Foundation, an award that recognizes influential mid-career people working on connections between research and practice. Two, his fellowship work will be to help the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CMNH) launch a new Center for Lifelong Science Learning. In that effort, Kevin will play a key role organizing the Center and establishing core relationships. And three -- Marianne Steiner, a former student of Kevin’s and a national leader on the topic of informal science learning, has been named director of the new Center (more details here in the CMNH press release).

The Center will bring together museum staff and partners from universities and other organizations to conduct research into how people learn about science in settings other than classrooms. A $1 million grant from the PNC Foundation, the largest gift the museum has received in a number of years, will fund the new Center. Read more about PNC’s role in science education in the November 17 Pittsburgh Tribune Review article. The Science Learning Center is the first of five new centers planned in a museum-wide reorganization under the supervision of CMNH director Dr. Sam Taylor. Taylor’s quest is "... to have science and education work more closely together, so important programs and research that we sponsor don’t just end up in journals read only by scientists." Ranked among the nation’s five top natural history museums, the Carnegie is breaking new ground in this endeavor. A Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article details that work.

Kevin’s involvement with the new Center is an outgrowth of work he conducted at LRDC with Jennifer Russell, Karen Knutson, and Bill Bickel. “The Ecology of Educational Opportunities in Pittsburgh,” was a 2008 RDF-funded project that explored the interdependencies in formal educational systems and non-system actors such as museums and nonprofit organizations.