



# 2024 Annual Report



**NCSE** National Center for  
Science Education



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## OUR VISION

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One day, students of all ages will be scientifically literate, teachers will be prepared and empowered to teach accurate science, and scientific thinking and decision-making will ensure that all life can thrive and overcome challenges to our shared future.

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**During my first full year** as Executive Director, NCSE built upon its strong foundation to expand the depth and breadth of its work. I'm most proud of the partnerships we developed, as exemplified by our My COAST (Climate-Oriented Authentic Science Teaching) professional development experience in Skidaway, Georgia, in which regional teachers were invited to spend several days at a coastal area working with University of Georgia scientists and NCSE staff to better understand the effects of climate change on this ecosystem. They then took what they learned back to their classrooms, bolstered by NCSE-built curriculum. This model proved so successful that we arranged another My COAST event for the spring of 2025 in Key West, Florida, and have heard from many other groups that they, too, would like to partner with NCSE to create similar learning experiences for their science teachers.

Along with offering My COAST, NCSE's teacher support program rebranded itself as Science Education and Outreach to better reflect the scope of its work as well as the experience and expertise of our team. You might not know this, but our Science Education Specialists are more than just former classroom teachers; they each hold doctoral degrees in science education! The team set a goal of facilitating high-quality professional development to science teachers in all 48 contiguous states in the next five years. Well on its way to this ambitious goal, the SEO team led professional learning opportunities in 14 states, serving 1,800 educators.

In 2024, our research program, Investigating Science Education, conducted a nationally representative survey of public school science educators addressing not only evolution and climate change but also the nature of science, published an article on changes in climate change education at the middle school level in a peer-reviewed academic journal, and published two articles in collaboration with a team of outside researchers on evolution acceptance and attitudes toward science and technology.

Our longest-tenured program, Catalyzing Action, continued to monitor and mobilize against legislation and policy developments that threatened the accurate teaching of climate science and evolution. In 2024, NCSE helped defeat anti-science bills in five states and rallied support for quality state science standards and textbooks in four states. Of particular note, NCSE brought scrutiny to bear on efforts by the Texas Board of Education to censor textbooks of climate change and evolution content.

I'm excited not only about what we accomplished in 2024, but also what we have ahead of us in 2025, from more My COAST events and other opportunities to give teachers a chance to grow their science knowledge and teaching abilities, to celebrating the 100th anniversary of the pivotal Scopes "monkey" trial. And, of course, a lot more besides!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Amanda L. Townley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Amanda L. Townley  
*Executive Director*

# NCSE at Work in 2024

## Science, Education, and Outreach

We help students overcome common misconceptions about climate change, evolution, and the nature of science.



### My COAST (Climate-Oriented Authentic Science Teaching)

[NCSE.ORG](#)

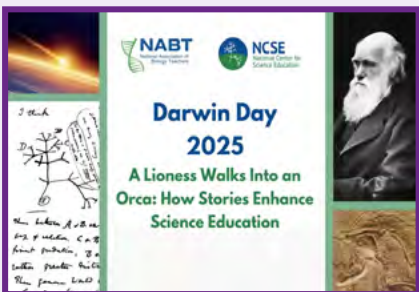
NCSE piloted a hands-on professional development experience for teachers to study the impact climate change is having on coastal regions.



### Professional Development Roadmap

[NCSE.ORG](#)

In 2024, NCSE led 30 professional development sessions across 14 states, serving over 1,800 teachers.



### “A Lioness Walks Into an Orca”

[NCSE.ORG](#)

For Darwin Day, we reprised our evolution symposium from the National Association of Biology Teachers annual conference, featuring Katie Hinde of March Mammal Madness fame.

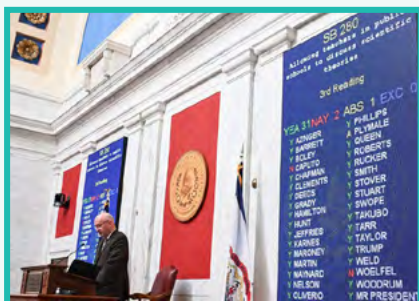


*“Teachers learned about common tactics of climate change denial, applied NCSE’s new data and media literacy tool [DataWISE](#), and participated in lessons from NCSE’s new Story Shorts.”*

—FROM MY COAST ARTICLE

# Catalyzing Action

We help individuals and communities resist threats to accurate and effective science education.



## NCSE's Townley criticizes West Virginia's new cryptocreationist law



NCSE.ORG

Writing in *Scientific American*, NCSE Executive Director Amanda L. Townley outlines the misconceptions inherent in the new law's views on evolution.



## Everything's bigger in Texas, including ideological attacks on textbooks



NCSE.ORG

NCSE's Glenn Branch provides a timeline of efforts by members of the Texas Board of Education to censor textbooks of evolution and climate change content.



## Fossil fuel misinformation in Illinois



NCSE.ORG

NCSE Teacher Ambassadors helped shine a light on efforts by the Illinois fossil fuel industry to misinform school children about climate change.

*"Members of the board are clearly motivated to take some of these textbooks off of the approved list because of their personal and ideological beliefs regarding evolution and climate change."*

—NCSE'S GLENN BRANCH, THE GUARDIAN

# Investigating Science Education

Investigating Science Education conducts high-quality and high-impact research to better understand science education.



## Climate change education in U.S. middle schools: Changes over five pivotal years

[JOURNALS.ASM.ORG](https://journals.asm.org)

A study from researchers at Penn State University and NCSE reveals a remarkable improvement in climate education in US middle schools over the past five years.



## The acceptance of evolution: A developmental view of Generation X in the United States

[JOURNALS.SAGEPUB.COM](https://journals.sagepub.com)

NCSE Deputy Director Glenn Branch is co-author of a paper that analyzes the acceptance or rejection of evolution using a 33-year longitudinal study that followed the same 5,000 public-school students from grade 7 through midlife.



## Evaluating the current state of evolution acceptance instruments: a research coordination network meeting report

[EVOLUTION-OUTREACH.BIOMEDCENTRAL.COM](https://evolution-outreach.biomedcentral.com)

NCSE Executive Director Amanda L. Townley was one of 16 experts to review current evolution acceptance instruments used with undergraduate biology students.



*“This study indicates that climate change education in the U.S. is improving at the crucial middle school level and, by offering explanations for those improvements, points the way to further improvements.”*

—CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION IN U.S. MIDDLE SCHOOLS: CHANGES OVER FIVE PIVOTAL YEARS



## NCSE in the News

The National Center for Science Education is a go-to source for local, national, and international media outlets covering climate change and evolution education in the U.S.



**New Law Allowing Religion Into Science Classrooms Is Dangerous for Everyone**



**West Virginia Opens the Door to Teaching Intelligent Design**



**Reading, Writing, Math ... and Climate Change?**



*"[P]eople of all faiths and none should unite in fighting for religious freedom, including by ensuring that religiously motivated but unscientific 'alternatives' to science are not allowed in public school classrooms."*

— AMANDA L. TOWNLEY, NCSE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

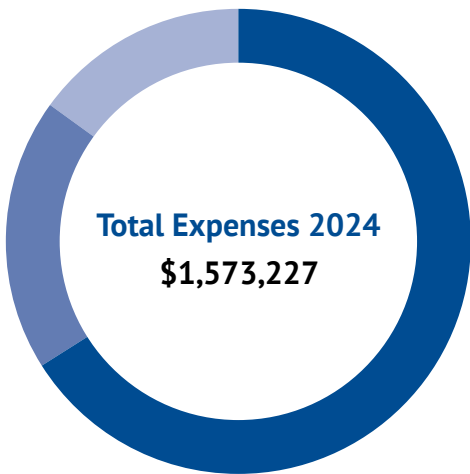


# Financial Report

We are grateful for the ongoing support and dedication of the individual supporters and foundations who make our work possible.



- Individuals: \$1,205,852 (84%)
- Foundations: \$145,000 (10%)
- Earned income: \$92,149 (6%)



- Program: \$1,043,066 (66%)
- General and Administration: \$296,181 (19%)
- Fundraising: \$233,980 (15%)

## Board of Directors

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Stuart Fogg <i>IT Project Specialist</i>	Blake Touchet <i>Science Education Specialist</i>
Heather Grimes <i>Communications Specialist</i>	





## OUR MISSION

NCSE promotes and defends accurate and effective science education, because everyone deserves to engage with the evidence.



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