Description of a Hybrid Electronic Field Trip

This Best Practices session will describe zipTrips, an electronic field trip (EFT) designed to provide middle school students the opportunity to see and interact with scientists and their exciting work, without leaving their school. ZipTrips is hybrid and differs from traditional EFTs that are primarily hosted on web servers. The program is simultaneously broadcasted online and on PBS (Public Broadcasting Station) and lasts about 45 minutes and consist of 4 core components: In studio audience, live interaction with scientists, pre-recorded segments and live experiments. The specific goals of zipTrips are to increase student understanding of science and research and career opportunities, enhance student interest in science, and make University researchers and labs accessible to students across the state (particularly in resource-limited rural areas). Our presentation will provide a description of zipTrips, the conceptual framework, technical strategies, lessons learned and future plans for the project.