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### How Katie Bouman Accidentally Became the Face of the Black Hole Project

The first ever picture of a black hole recently [made the news](#). Katie Bouman, the postdoctoral fellow, was one of many who contributed to the project, and quickly became a STEM hero for women and girls.



### The State of American Trade Schools

Postsecondary trade and tech schools are becoming a more important part of the growing economy and a more attractive educational option. Read more [here](#).



### 2018 National Survey of Science and Math Education

This survey has a new name, NSSME+, to reflect the added emphasis on engineering. The [report](#) details the results of a nationally representative survey of 7600 science, mathematics, and computer science teachers in U.S. Schools. Among the topics included were teacher backgrounds and beliefs, professional development, instructional objectives, and instructional resources.



### ComEd, Illinois State University, and Downers North Students Partner on Energy Challenge

DGN students worked on the design and development of solar powered innovations to leverage smart grid technology and related services as they addressed community needs. [Read the full release](#).

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

### Leading Future Ready Schools - May 21

Future Ready Schools (FRS) is a bold effort to maximize digital learning opportunities and help school districts move quickly toward preparing students for success in college, a career, and citizenship. [Learn more](#).

### TeCLabs - June 25-27

The Department of Physics at the UIUC offers this 3-day workshop for middle school science teachers. Participants will collaborate on developing NGSS-aligned lab activities to use in the upcoming school year and learn new technologies. The workshop days run 9 am to 4 pm, with a lunch break. Lunches are provided. Participants receive a stipend of \$100 per day, mileage reimbursement, and free lodging at a nearby hotel. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

### ChemEd Conference - July 21-25

The [conference](#) will take place at North Central College, Naperville and will integrate various strands including K-8.

## Resources

### K-12 Wind Schools Program

Grants support the installation of 1 to 5 wind turbines, allowing students to see how wind energy is converted into electricity. Eligible applicants are Illinois K-12 schools, educational organizations, and nonprofit organizations. Grants up to \$40,000 or 90 percent of the system and installation costs are awarded. [Applications](#) due August 27, 2019.

### Mazda Foundation

The Mazda Foundation supports 501(c)(3) organizations to promote education and literacy, environmental conservation, cross-cultural understanding, social welfare, and scientific research. Priority is given to organizations located in markets where Mazda has offices, including Chicago, Illinois. [Applications](#) are accepted May 1 to July 1, annually.

### Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) Foundation

Grants support public school educators to enable their students to participate in special projects. Download, complete, and submit the application online through June 1, 2019, by visiting [www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org), under the IRTA Foundation section.

### Toshiba America Foundation

Teachers who are passionate about making science and mathematics more engaging for their students may apply for support of their classroom projects that focus on project-based learning. Awards vary. [Applications](#) for requests less than \$5,000 are due June 1, September 1 and December 1, 2019. Requests for grants of \$5,001 and greater are due May 1 and November 1, 2019.