

STEM

News You Can Use . . .



June 2014

Maryland's Strategy Brings STEM Education to Younger Students

The state's comprehensive strategy is intended to make Maryland the nation's STEM education leader and improve instruction. <http://www.ed.gov/edblogs/progress/2014/03/race-to-the-top-boosts-stem-in-maryland-early-grades/>



Westmont Jr. High students enjoy STEM Night activities on March 13

Importance of STEM Mentors

STEM mentoring can take on many forms. Unfortunately for many students such opportunities are too few in number. <http://www.usnews.com/news/stem-solutions/articles/2014/04/24/the-crucial-role-of-mentors-in-stem>

Survey shows STEM interest on the rise

College enrollment in science, technology, engineering and math fields is growing, according to a recent study. Based on a national survey of college freshmen, 28.2% in 2011 said they planned to major in STEM, up from 21.1% in 2007. Researchers found that business and education majors have declined by nearly 6%. <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/04/07/study-finds-increased-stem-enrollment-recession#sthash.nsxg6mLo.dpbs>

Congratulations to Dr. Meg Van Dyke, Golden Apple Award Recipient

Selected from 620 nominations and 272 applicants representing 4th through 8th grade teachers throughout the Chicago area, Van Dyke, 48, was surprised with a Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching on May 7 in her classroom. Read more: <http://www.mysuburbanlife.com/2014/05/13/oneill-science-teacher-surprised-with-golden-apple-award/agl7mw6/>

Coming Events

Chicago Botanic Garden offers Summer Staff Development

Explore opportunities like "STEM in Your Neighborhood" and "Field Research for Educators." For additional information, go to <http://tiny.cc/hj93dx>

3rd Annual Technology Day: A Modern Story, August 18, 2014 at St. Xavier University

Calling faculty, K-12 educators, staff and administrators from the Chicago area who are interested in exploring K-20 education innovation. A dynamic lineup of speakers with a common message of innovation: Alan November, Dr. Theresa Dunkin, Superintendent, CCSD 102, Stephen diFilipo, and Bernard Robin. Interested in presenting? Proposals will be accepted until July 1, 2014. [Submit your proposal today](#). The \$40 registration fee includes breakfast, lunch and end-of-day reception. For more information, please visit the [Technology Day](#) web page. Direct questions to cidat@sxu.edu.

2014 Tech Savvy Conference – November 15, 2014

Tech Savvy is a daylong science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) career conference designed to attract girls in sixth through ninth grade to these fields and to inform families about STEM education and career opportunities. The Chicago Tech Savvy Conference will be held at IIT Rice Campus in Wheaton on Saturday November 15, 2014. The registration fee is \$5 which covers breakfast, lunch and all activities. Registration for the event will open September 1, 2014. For more information: <http://www.slideshare.net/kateskegg/tech-savvy-flyer-chicago-il-2014>

Resources

Dart Foundation Education Grants

The Dart Foundation awards grants for youth education programs, with an emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This private family foundation also provides grants to support projects and programs in health, community services, and journalism, with a specific focus on accurate coverage of science and the environment. <http://www.dartfoundation.org/web/dartfweb.nsf/pages/index.html>

New Tool Released to Help Educators Assess Alignment of Materials to NGSS

The Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products (EQuIP) Rubric for science provides criteria for measuring alignment and quality of lessons and units with respect to the NGSS. [Click here](#) to view and download the rubric and other resources from the NGSS@NSTA Hub, or view it on the [official NGSS](#) site. Read more about the rubric and what it means for teachers in a [blog post by Joe Krajcik](#), professor of science education, director for the CREATE for STEM Institute at Michigan State University, and one of several NGSS writers, developed the EQuIP Rubric for Science. NSTA has formed a group of 55 curators who are using the rubric to identify resources that support the standards.

51 Tools to Support BYOD Programs in the Classroom

A bring-your-own-device program has been adopted for the classroom. Now what? In this blog post, Vicki Davis, a teacher and IT integrator in Georgia, suggests 51 tools that can be used now in a BYOD classroom. Among them are Socrative and other mobile applications designed for formative assessment, Screencast-O-Matic and similar screencasting tools and content-sharing platforms, such as Sophia. [Edutopia.org/Vicki Davis' blog](http://Edutopia.org/Vicki-Davis-blog)

Investigating Ice Cream and Water Toys

Summer conjures up thoughts of cookouts and warm-weather treats such as ice cream. Capture students' interest by delving into a lesson on endothermic reactions through Sarah Young's "Cold Milk" activity from [Gourmet Lab: The Scientific Principles Behind Your Favorite Foods](#) (grades 6–12). You can also explore the engineering angle on a common summer toy in the lesson "What Makes a Squirt Gun Squirt?" from Richard Moyer and Susan Everett's [Everyday Engineering: Putting the E in STEM Teaching and Learning](#) (grades 6–8).

Putting the "E" in STEM

[Engineering Essentials for STEM Instruction](#), an ASCD Arias™ publication, provides ideas and strategies for incorporating engineering into lessons. Designed to be read in one sitting, learn how to use engineering to engage students in hands-on, collaborative projects; encourage students to apply content-area knowledge and skills; focus STEM instruction on real-world problem solving. Sample lesson, links to additional resources, guidelines for assessment, and more. [Order online](#) or by phone, 1-800-933-ASCD (2723), press 1.

