

News You Can Use...

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Presidents' Day STEM Open House

On February 16, nearly 300 5th through 8th grade students and parents attended the Open House at Technology Center of DuPage in Addison. Fifteen exhibitors provided numerous hands-on STEM activities for attendants. Volunteers from AAUW and the Technology Center of DuPage assisted at the event.



How Technology Can Help Close the Skills Gap in STEM Education (The Huffington Post)

A new report from the Education Testing Services (ETS) group highlights a relatively silent but highly urgent problem in America: the skills gap in STEM (science, technology, education, and math) education. What we mean by "skills gap" is the mismatch between the kinds of skills employers say they need compared to the skills our students possess. [Read more here.](#)



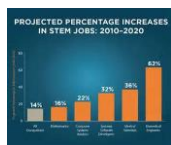
Career Changers to Teachers: An Investment

Why would a corporation invest in losing a good employee to a teaching career? This is a question that arises whenever I talk about career changers. The answer to this question is twofold. First, it's all about the future. This country is in need of STEM teachers, teachers who have a deep knowledge of the subjects they teach. [Read more here.](#)



3D-printing Project Teaches Students about Geometry

Fourth-grade students at a New Jersey elementary school learned geometry concepts by designing small boats online and using 3D printing to bring their designs to life. The students then put the boats to the test in a bucket of water. [3DPrint.com](#)



STEM Majors Fare Well in Job Market

Employment number climbed during 2011-12 for students who majored in science, technology, engineering, and math, according to a recent report. Researchers highlight hiring and salary trends for STEM graduates. [Science magazine \(free content\)/Science Careers blog](#)



What Will Tomorrow's Workforce Expect from STEM Students?

The workforce of tomorrow will call on graduates to solve 21st-century problems involving energy, clean water, health and medicine, among other areas, writes Anne Jolly, a lab scientist turned educator turned teacher-trainer. In this blog post, she aims to help new science, technology, engineering and math students tackle the challenges ahead and highlights their first real-world assignment. [MiddleWeb/STEM By Design blog](#)

Upcoming Events

The NxtGen Summer Tech Program. The IIT program is for high school students interested in Information Technology (IT), computing and next generation technologies. Courses are hands-on with support from IIT faculty, staff and select students. <https://appliedtech.iit.edu/nxtgenhttps://appliedtech.iit.edu/nxtgen>

Summer Teacher Workshops. SCARCE offers fun and fast paced summer learning opportunities for educators, many with credit available from Aurora University. <http://www.scarcecoed.org/environmental-education/workshops-for-teachers.html>

Make STEM a Focus of Your Spring Break. The following posts contain great ideas for science experiments and projects that students can do. [Fun Science at Home: Give Spring Break a Science Boost](#); [Spring Break Science: A Hands-on Project Survival Guide](#); [A Super Science-filled Summer Break](#); [Science and Engineering Activities for the Winter Break \(Or Any Time!\)](#) And, take a look at the [roundup of ideas for Engineers Week](#) contains great picks that are perfect for spring break, too! Also link to these activities: [Rocket Science: How High Can You Send a Payload?](#); [Water Bottle Rocket Blast Off!](#); [Take a Candle Carousel for a Spin](#)

Google Announces Annual Science Fair with \$50K Prize. Google has launched its fifth annual global science fair, in which students between ages 13 and 18 are invited to submit projects that break new ground in science and solve real-world problems. The winner will receive a \$50,000 scholarship from Google, among other prizes. [EdTech magazine online](#)

BioGENEius for High School Students. High school students are invited to enter this prestigious science competition for original biotechnology research. The Illinois [BioGENEius Challenge](#) competition offers three new Challenge Tracks: Global Healthcare (medical biotech), Global Sustainability (agricultural biotech) and Global Environment (industrial/environmental biotech). The contest closes at 5 PM or April 10, 2015. Enter today! <http://www.biotechinstitute.org/go.cfm?do=Page.View&pid=47>

Video Contest for 5th - 12th Grade Students. Show how much you love science, technology, engineering and math in a creative video, or share the story of a favorite STEM hero. Enter the [STEM Voice™ Video Competition](#). The deadline to submit videos and applications is Friday, April 17, at 11:59 PST. Learn more at www.csbinstitutes.org.

Resources

NGSS Teaching Channel Videos Now Available

Four NGSS videos are now available online through the Teaching Channel. The videos will help educators become familiar with the three dimensions of the NGSS and how they will benefit students. <http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=9d987b5f-c51f-4ff2-82bd-d4bb8bfd143&c=a10a7b50-92ed-11e3-950e-d4ae529cde13&ch=a19d4570-92ed-11e3-959c-d4ae529cde13>

Share Your Science, Technology, Math, and Engineering Stories!

Send photos of students' projects – they be featured as a success story on the [Science Buddies Blog](#), in the spotlight at [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Google+](#), or in the newsletter. [Let us know](#), in photos, how the science project went!

Hear Stories from Women in Engineering and Computer Science

Inspire and motivate female students interested in STEM fields. Use these links to learn more: [Microsoft Women Profiles](#); [Computer Science Women at Dot Diva](#); [Engineering Women at Engineer Girl](#); [Science Women at PBS Scigirls](#).

Center for Teaching and Learning

The website includes links to courses designed by teachers as part of the Progressive Science Initiative (PSI) which uses innovative approaches to pedagogy, assessment strategies, curriculum, and technology integration. <http://www.3ww.njctl.org/courses/science/>

Computer Science Resources

Know a young person interested in computer science? Here are some great resources

[YouthSpark](#); [Code.org](#); [Khan Academy](#); [Learning Center by UN Women](#); [Harvey Mudd](#); [ITU Girls in ICT Portal](#); [Free Online Computer Science Middle School Toolkit and High School Advanced Placement Gaming Course](#).

Northwestern Offers NGSS Courses and Programs

Study the shifts required of science educators with the adoption of the NGSS and how to successfully incorporate these shifts in thinking and practice. <http://www.sesp.northwestern.edu/msed/certificate-for-advanced-study-education/next-generation-science-teaching.html>