



# News You Can Use...

## Congratulations to Laura Riley, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher at Westmont Junior High School

Laura was selected to participate in the 2014 - 2015 Science Master Teacher Project. With the NEA Science Master Teacher Project, BetterLesson is bringing the Master Teachers' curriculum and practice within reach for every teacher. Laura is one of only 65 science teachers selected in the U.S. to create knowledge regarding effective science teaching.



### Why STEM Is Important

An increased interest and understanding in mathematics and science improves our ability to solve problems (engineering), leading to inventions and innovations (technology) <http://cemast.illinoisstate.edu/educators/stem/index.shtml>.

### Study: Pro-social Mindset May Help Improve Math, Science Grades

Researchers are testing an academic-mindset intervention that involves asking students to tie their learning to larger, pro-social goals. In one pilot, the researchers found that students who connected their learning to a bigger purpose improved their grades in math and science. [KQED.org/Mind/Shift\\_blog](http://KQED.org/Mind/Shift_blog)



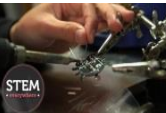
### Minnesota District Blends STEM Across All Academic Subjects

Minnesota district integrates science, technology, engineering and math into all subject areas. District STEM coordinator Tom Meagher said it can be amazing "when kids see the real applicability in what they learn to what's going on in their life." [http://www.southernminn.com/owatonna\\_peoples\\_press/article\\_00fe5083-4d09-5878-87c9-2bd492c7932a.html](http://www.southernminn.com/owatonna_peoples_press/article_00fe5083-4d09-5878-87c9-2bd492c7932a.html)



### Ice Cream that Changes Colors?

You bet. But don't get your hopes up – it is still experimental. Read more about the invention of the Spanish physicist. [http://sploid.gizmodo.com/scientists-invents-ice-cream-that-changes-color-as-you-1612539292?fb\\_action\\_ids=10203442244131030&fb\\_action\\_types=og.likes](http://sploid.gizmodo.com/scientists-invents-ice-cream-that-changes-color-as-you-1612539292?fb_action_ids=10203442244131030&fb_action_types=og.likes)



### STEM Everywhere: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in the Real World (EduTopia)

Explore STEM education in settings beyond the classroom walls, and see how opportunities to learn science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are all around us. From science-based internships, to student-run maker-spaces, to after-school activities, STEM is everywhere. [Read more here.](#)

## Upcoming Events

**STEM Resources Boot Camp.** The DuPage Regional Office of Education will host a workshop for middle school educators and administrators that focuses on building a repertoire of STEM resources available in our area. For more information and to register: <https://www.dupage.k12.il.us/register/course.php?recid=6028>

**Brookfield Zoo – Classes for Teachers.** Fall and Early Winter 2014/ 2015 classes carry optional graduate credit and address the Next Generation Science Standards. Topics include Weather and Climate, Animals of the Night, Animal Travelers, Science Stories, and Animal Behavior and Training. To register: [www.czs.org/teacher-classes](http://www.czs.org/teacher-classes). For questions, please contact Lanis Petrik at 708-688-8372 or [Lanis.Petrik@czs.org](mailto:Lanis.Petrik@czs.org); or Julie Wozniak at 708-688-8367 or [Julie.Wozniak@czs.org](mailto:Julie.Wozniak@czs.org).

**National Geographic Professional Development.** National Geographic is offering teachers free online professional development courses to learn about water as a resource and how to facilitate learning through outdoor watershed education. "FLOW Education: Facilitating Learning through Outdoor Watershed Education" (Sept. 17-Oct. 29) is designed for classroom teachers of grades 4-9 to learn about watersheds and outdoor education using the Chesapeake Bay watershed as an example. Sign up at [www.coursera.org/#course/watershed](http://www.coursera.org/#course/watershed). "Water: The Essential Resource" (Oct. 15-Dec.17) focuses on both ocean and freshwater subjects and provides strategies for teaching environmental topics in grades 4-8. Sign up at [www.coursera.org/#course/waterandenvironment](http://www.coursera.org/#course/waterandenvironment).

## Resources

**Ten "Must Use" Math and Science Instructional Strategies.** These strategies focus on critical skills and practices that are effective well outside the study of math and science. <http://mastersed.uc.edu/news-resources/infographics/the-importance-of-stem-in-k-12-education-video/>

**SMART Competition.** Redesigning a gym is the theme of this year's intelligent-building challenge for high school students. Registration opened Aug. 18. [Learn more.](#)

**Google RISE Awards.** Receive up to \$50,000 to start or expand a computer science program for girls or underrepresented groups. Apply by Sept. 30. [Learn more.](#)

**STEM Teacher Scholarships.** Applications just opened for Engineering is Elementary's professional development workshops. Funds include travel to Boston. [Learn more.](#)

**Verizon Innovative App Challenge.** Middle and high school students need not be techies to dream up a \$20,000 winning app idea. Registration began Aug. 4. [Learn more.](#)

**Engineering – Go For It.** Introduce your students to the engineering process by engaging them in lessons and activities that introduce them to the engineering design process. <http://teachers.egfi-k12.org/category/lessons/grades-6-8-lessons/>

**Back to School Strategies to Engage Learners.** Engage your students in learning and thinking from the moment they step into your classroom. [Read more.](http://blogs.kqed.org/mindshift/2013/08/10-ideas-to-get-those-back-to-school-juices-flowing/) <http://blogs.kqed.org/mindshift/2013/08/10-ideas-to-get-those-back-to-school-juices-flowing/>

**A Resource for Parents.** NSTA has recently released a resource for parents to help them understand the Next Generation Science Standards and how they will impact their child's classroom. [Find them all here.](http://science.nsta.org/enewsletter/2014-08/Leadership_Stakeholders.htm) [http://science.nsta.org/enewsletter/2014-08/Leadership\\_Stakeholders.htm](http://science.nsta.org/enewsletter/2014-08/Leadership_Stakeholders.htm)

**Interested in exposing your female students to amazing young STEM professionals?** [FabFems](#) are enthusiastic about the science and technology work they do and want to inspire our future generations. Visit the FabFems website to search profiles, connect with role models, and find career resources.

