



Hello Science Education Leaders,

I hope you find time to relax with loved ones this holiday season. I know I'm looking forward to the break.

If you haven't had a chance to yet, please complete our [state survey of science education](#) programs. There are fabulous prizes, such as a WSST conference registration and a Dream Big DVD.

Please, let me know if I can help with some resources or a facilitated discussion, like a brief after-school dig into 3D, phenomenon-based assessment. Send me an email!

Congratulations to Chris Mitchell and Nate Mahr from the Oregon School District who were [recognized as Energy Educators of the Year.](#)

Below are a few science education resources I've heard about. A record of these emails can be found on my website: [dpi.wi.gov/science/social-media](http://dpi.wi.gov/science/social-media).

Cheers,  
Kevin

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## Learning Opportunities

- WSST 2022 Conference - Apr 7-9, Wausau
- EdReports High School Educator Recruitment to Review Materials
- WSELA - Feb 16 - in Madison/DeForest
- Meet the Lab from PBS Wisconsin - webinar on Jan 27

## Resources

- How Do You Make Science More Relevant for Students of Color?
- Several education articles I've enjoyed lately
- Enhance Your Teaching of Evolution w/ new UC Museum of Paleontology resources

## Student Opportunities

- 2022 Wisconsin Aviation Art Contest - deadline Jan. 10
  - 2022 Space Camp Scholarships - deadline Jan. 17
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## Details

### Learning Opportunities

- WSST 2022 Conference - Apr 7-9, Wausau

<https://www.wsst.org/conference-20222> - It will be great to see people again at the "Come Back Conference." The banquet keynote on Friday will be [Paul Anderson](#), who will also be doing a couple breakout sessions. The lunch speaker on Friday will be Dr. Edward Belongia, talking about the science behind COVID-19 vaccines. Please, consider submitting a session - the deadline has been extended to Jan 3. Like most years, I think I somehow signed up to help with 7 or 8 sessions... :)

- EdReports High School Educator Recruitment to Review Materials

<https://www.edreports.org/about/reviewers> - EdReports does great work providing an analysis of science instructional materials. The people leading this work are fabulous - I've heard lots of positive comments from others who have been involved. It is a great learning opportunity. EdReports also recently released [a report on the current state of science instructional materials](#).

- WSELA - Feb 16 - in Madison/DeForest

The next meeting of the Wisconsin Science Education Leadership Association (WSELA) will be Feb 16th at the Madison North/DeForest [Comfort Inn](#) (5025 County Hwy V, DeForest). All are welcome! Timeframe - 8:30 provided light breakfast, 9 start, and end by 2:30. The morning will tentatively focus on various facets of assessment - formative, equity, 3D, rubrics, standards-based grading, etc. We'll have networking over a provided lunch. After lunch we'll dig into results from the [state survey of science programs](#) - sharing/analyzing results. Other topics will be decided by your input - please email me or Kevin Niemi ideas. We will have a virtual option for joining as well. Please, RSVP to [kjniemi@wisc.edu](mailto:kjniemi@wisc.edu), noting virtual or in-person - can also ask him to add you to the listserv if you're not on it yet. We anticipate that there will be no cost for the meeting this time.

- Meet the Lab from PBS Wisconsin - webinar on Jan 27 at 4pm

<https://pbswisconsineducation.org/events/> - Webinar is from 4 to 5pm. Digital interactives from PBS Wisconsin's Meet the Lab collection can help your students explore cutting-edge research happening right here in Wisconsin. You'll go home with real-world, relevant activities you can use the next day. The webinar will feature Wisconsin educators sharing how they use these materials and how they build up students' STEM identities. They're geared for middle school classrooms but can be scaled up or down a little.

### Resources

- [How Do You Make Science More Relevant for Students of Color](#) -

This Edweek article discusses community and cultural relevance in science learning, student agency, and a need for change in systems.

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- **State Survey**

I look forward to sharing the results of the [state science education survey](#). Please, fill it out if you haven't in order to support networking efforts across districts. I will be sharing results.

- Here are a few other articles I enjoyed recently

- [Former Minnesota Teacher of the Year resigns and talks about current mental health challenges](#)

- [10 insightful education research studies from the last year](#)

- [5 Ways to teach about climate change and vaccines in strange political times](#)

- [Cultivating Genius in All Students](#) - building from the work of Dr. Gholdy Muhammad

- [Help children develop awe](#) - from the Washington Post

- Enhance Your Teaching of Evolution w/ new UC Museum of Paleontology resources

The UC Museum of Paleontology has updated and expanded [Understanding Evolution](#), their one-stop source for teaching and learning about evolution. The site provides free access to a variety of new and classic resources, including a database of NGSS-aligned lessons vetted by experienced teachers, approachable background information in English and Spanish in the online textbook *Evo 101*, student-friendly news stories that connect evolutionary concepts to current events, and *Digging Data* activities that engage students with authentic data from diverse scientists. [Explore the website](#) to access these resources and more.

### **Student Opportunities**

- 2022 Wisconsin Aviation Art Contest - deadline Jan. 10

Calling all aviation enthusiasts! The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) invites students to participate in the International Aviation Art Contest. This year's theme is "Design Your Perfect Aircraft." The contest is open to Wisconsin students in multiple age groups, and the top 3 entries in each age group will be displayed in the Wisconsin State Capitol and will advance to the national competition. For more information, visit the Art Contest webpage: <http://wisconsindot.gov/artcontest>

- 2022 Space Camp Scholarships - deadline Jan. 17

Are you or your students especially interested in space? The Geek Partnership Society, a non-profit in Minnesota, is accepting applications for 2 scholarships to attend Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. One scholarship is for educators, another is for students, ages 10-14. The scholarship will cover all costs other than transportation to the airport. For more information, visit the website: <https://geekpartnership.org/programs/spacecamp/>

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“Science is not a body of facts, [it] is a method for deciding whether what we choose to believe has a basis in the laws of nature or not.” – Marcia McNutt