



Hello Science Education Leaders and Collaborators,

With the recent school tragedy in Madison, I'm reminded again of how grateful I am for all of your dedicated work as educators and our continuing need to work together for the wellbeing of all of our students.

Below are a few science and STEAM/STEM education resources I've heard about. If you have announcements to share about professional learning and resources, please send them my way for the next edition. A record of these emails can be found on my website: dpi.wi.gov/science/social-media.

Happy Holidays!

Kevin

Learning Opportunities

- [WSST Conference](#) - Apr 3-5 in Oshkosh
- [Elkhorn Maker Fest](#) - Feb 15

Resources

- [Milwaukee Zoo Student Programs](#) - at the zoo or your school!
- [AP Science Summit Resources](#) (in case you missed it)
- [Recent Education Articles of Note](#)
- [Investigations Project](#) - K-5 science materials and tools

Student Opportunities

- [Science Bowl](#) - MS student competition this winter/spring
- [Crystal Growing Contest](#) - MS/HS competition this winter/spring

Details

Learning Opportunities

- WSST Conference - Apr 3-5 in Oshkosh

<https://www.wsst.org/2025-conference> - As always, there will be loads of sessions, workshops, field trips, networking, and social opportunities. You can reserve a room now in the WSST block at the Oshkosh Marriott Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center. I look forward to seeing you there!

- Elkhorn Maker Fest – Feb 15

<https://www.elkhorn.k12.wi.us/o/easd/page/makerfest> - There are opportunities to share, sell, volunteer, and attend this growing Maker Fest in Elkhorn. Tickets are free if you sign-up before Feb 8th and bring a [donation](#) for the local animal shelter. Everyone is welcome!

Resources

- Milwaukee Zoo Student Programs at the zoo or your school!

The [Zoological Society of Milwaukee](#) would like to invite your students to experience a hands-on, engaging program – aligned with NGSS standards – to help expand your science curriculum. Teachers can choose from either an [At-Zoo](#) field trip program or a [Zoo to You](#) program that brings the Zoo experience to their own classroom. New this year, we've added Conservation Career Track Programs. Limited scholarships available for schools that qualify. And don't forget, the Milwaukee County Zoo offers free admission (with [registration](#)) to Milwaukee County schools from November through March! Request a Zoo school program on our [inquiry form](#) or call 414-258-5058 for more information.

- AP Science Summit Resources

This was a fabulous event supported by a great team of volunteers! We appreciated the national head of AP Science, Dr. Serena Magrogan, joining us, along with other regional College Board leaders. In case you missed it, [here's the folder](#) w/ resources, slides, etc. Hope to see you next time!

- Recent Education Articles of Note!

[Work-based learning](#) - article by Dr. Jeff Weld makes policy suggestions for the next federal administration including teacher externships and competency-based education

[Edutopia's annual 10 top education studies](#) - includes topics like including a few easy test questions, nature journaling, and loving mistakes.

[Many teachers don't use their high quality materials](#) - did your district adopt research-based materials in the last few years? Do you use them? This article explores why you might not.

- Investigations Project - K-5 science materials and tools

Currently there are [science units](#) for grades 2 and 5, and there are several science [pedagogy tools](#), like planning investigations and claim/evidence classroom conversations.

Student Opportunities

- Science Bowl - MS student competition this winter/spring

The UW-Madison Chemistry department is hosting the [2025 Middle School Science Bowl](#) for the Wisconsin Region on Saturday, February 1, 2025. Launched in 1991, the National Science Bowl® (NSB) is a Quiz-Bowl type academic event among teams of middle school students who compete in a fast-paced verbal forum to solve technical problems and answer questions in all branches of science and math. Each team is composed of four students, one alternate student, and a coach. Regional science bowl championship teams receive an all-expenses paid trip to compete at the national event in Washington, D.C. in April 2025. Registration is free and open now. Reach out to Matt Bowman (bowman@chem.wisc.edu) or Peter Jaeger (pfjaeger@wisc.edu) for more information.

- Crystal Growing Contest - MS/HS competition this winter/spring

<https://wicgc.chem.wisc.edu/> - After a five-year hiatus, the 2025 state-wide [Wisconsin Crystal Growing Contest](#) is back! It will take place from March to May of 2025. This event is FREE and registration is open to middle and high school students ages 11-18 as well as home-schooled youth. The specific goal of this program is to engage students in chemistry, crystallography, and optical microscopy. All contestants are invited to visit the UW-Madison Chemistry Department on May 24, 2025 where they will tour the university and visit an X-ray laboratory, where expert crystallographers demonstrate instruments that support investigation of molecular structure. Awards will also be given at this May event. Reach out to Ilia Guzei (iguzei@chem.wisc.edu) or Peter Jaeger (pfjaeger@wisc.edu) for more information.

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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