



Hello Science Education Colleagues and Supporters,

I hope to see you at the WSELA meeting (a science leadership group for coordinators, chairs, and any interested others) on Feb 26th in Waukesha - [tentative agenda](#). Email me for more info or to RSVP. I also hope to see you at the [WSST Annual Conference](#) from April 3-5, where there's loads of learning/networking and registration is now open.



I enjoyed spending time at the regional Science Bowl competition earlier this month at UW-Madison - congrats to the winners, Wisconsin Hills Middle School of Elmbrook SD! Let me know if you have any events I might attend and help support or celebrate.

If you have announcements to share about science or STEM-related 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](http://dpi.wi.gov/science/social-media).

Cheers,

Kevin

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### Learning Opportunities

- [Wisconsin Climate Hub Webinar](#) - Feb 24
  - [First Nations Webinar Series from DPI and CESA 12](#) - Feb 24
  - [American Assoc of Physics Teachers](#) - PLC and Summer Opportunities
  - [Upcoming KEEP and LEAF Environmental Events and Opportunities](#)
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- [WINGS \(Wisconsin Institute for Next Generation Science\)](#) - July 13-17
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## Resources

- [Energy Audit Kits for your classroom](#) - Free of "charge"!
- New National Academies' Report on [K-12 STEM in Rural Areas](#)
- [NSTA Science Teacher Article by Penuel et al](#) - Adapting/Developing Units

## Student Opportunities

- [National Youth Science Camp](#) - grades 11,12 - applications due Feb 28
- [Kid Wind Workshops and Competitions](#)

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## Details

### Learning Opportunities

- Wisconsin Climate Hub Webinar - Feb 24

[Wisconsin Climate Hub Webinar](#) - Wondering how to bring climate education to your classroom? Looking for high quality resources you can trust? At 5:30pm on Feb 24th you can learn about Wisconsin's Teach Wisconsin Climate education resource hub from DPI, MPS, WCEE, and Subject to Climate. Hear from teachers from across the state. Tour the Hub and discover the ways it can support your work across all grade levels and subjects.

- First Nations Webinar Series from DPI and CESA 12 - Feb 24

The [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction \(DPI\) - American Indian Studies Program](#) in partnership with [CESA 12](#) is offering a series of webinars to continue your professional development around First Nations Studies. These monthly 1.5 hour webinars continue through June 2025. They feature various Native American scholars in the fields of history, literature, education, etc. The Feb webinar will focus on emerging research that captures the role that Indigenous language and cultural revitalization plays in Indigenous health outcomes. The webinars will not be recorded. Pre-registration is required. The next webinar in the series is on Feb 26 at 4:30pm (pre-registration required).

- American Assoc of Physics Teachers - PLC and Summer Opportunities

[STEP UP Everyday Actions Professional Learning Community](#) - Members of the STEP UP Everyday Actions PLC are teachers of physics working to inspire young women to see themselves as a physics person. This community will use the updated Everyday Actions Guide to shift culture in their classrooms to a more inclusive, collaborative space in which all students feel welcome. Participants will receive a stipend for their involvement. Second, is the [PTRA Summer BootCamp: Empowering Physics Teacher Leaders](#). This intensive three-day professional development workshop focuses on developing the skills, knowledge,

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and strategies required to lead impactful professional development (PD) sessions within your local schools or districts. This summer boot camp is in Washington DC in August -- travel and AAPT National Meeting expenses are covered.

- Upcoming KEEP and LEAF Environmental Learning Events and Opportunities

There are many learning opportunities through the WCEE [KEEP](#) and [LEAF](#) programs throughout the year. [Energy in Nature](#) in Franklin on Apr 14 and in La Crosse on 3/31 w/ \$150 for subs (\$25) and [Introduction to Forestry Ed](#) for K-12 Classrooms on Mar 5 in Cambridge w/ ready to use lessons (\$50 - covers the environmental ed stipulation).

- WINGS (Wisconsin Institute for Next Generation Science) - July 13-17

<https://www.einsteinproject.org/wings> - WINGS brings together teachers from across Wisconsin for several days of professional learning opportunities and networking in Land O' Lakes, WI at the 1200-acre Lowenwood Estate. It's basically a sleep away science camp for educators with lots of learning and connecting. Recreational time is built into the schedule daily to enjoy kayaking, biking, games, and relaxing in the north woods. You would arrive the afternoon of July 13th and leave at lunch time on the 17th. There is a \$75 deposit if selected (they get many applicants), but you'll get that back along with an anticipated \$175 stipend to support your travel. This year's dates are July 13-17. [Applications](#) are open until April 12th.

## Resources

- Energy Audit Kits for your classroom - Free of "charge"!

[The Energy Audit Kit](#) is available on loan and free of charge, thanks to generous sponsorship by WE Energies and WPS. Perfect for discovering energy indoors, the kit includes easy-to-use tools to perform simple energy assessments and behavior investigations in the classroom. Students can monitor plug load, moisture, light, and temperature levels to identify energy loss in any building. This resource not only enhances lessons on energy but also supports the integration of technology into math and science curricula. Further details on finding these kits around the state [can be found on this WCEE page](#). These would pair well with KidWind projects noted below!

- New National Academies' Report on K-12 STEM in Rural Areas

<https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/28269/k-12-stem-education-and-workforce-development-in-rural-areas> - Rural areas can provide a rich context for learning science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), but these communities and the students in them are often overlooked in ongoing efforts to expand access to high-quality K-12 STEM education and workforce development. Addressing barriers, often related to funding, and promoting unrecognized assets for STEM learning can enhance the ability of individuals in rural areas to further engage in and contribute to their communities or to broader scientific exploration and discovery.

- NSTA Science Teacher Article by Penuel et al - Adapting/Developing Units
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<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00368555.2024.2390547#abstract> - I enjoyed this recent NSTA article titled, "Designing Standards-Aligned Instructional Materials That Connect to Students' Interests and Community Priorities." The authors highlight design strategies that teacher teams can use to adapt or develop materials that address standards with rigor while also attending to diverse student interests and the priorities of local communities. You may need an NSTA membership (which I highly recommend!). They have a range of [upcoming webinars and conferences](#).

### Student Opportunities

- National Youth Science Camp - grades 11,12 - applications due Feb 28

<https://www.nysacademy.org/programs/nyscamp/2024-nyscamp/> - This is an all-expense-paid student science camp with delegates from all over the U.S. and several other countries. Each state can send two delegates, and we do not usually get many applicants. Current juniors or seniors can apply starting Jan 27, with applications due on Feb 28. The camp goes from July 10 - Aug 2, and delegates have to commit to attending the full program. There are amazing science speakers that visit, and past participants have loved the program.

- Kid Wind Workshops and Competitions

<https://kidwind.org/events/workshops/#online> - KidWind is a great competition for students in grades 4-12 where they explore and design wind and/or solar energy projects (creations). While there is an [in-person challenge in Madison](#), there are also art and virtual options.

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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