



Hello Science Educators and Colleagues,

I hope you're excited about a new school year! I remember having the combination of anxiety and excitement that required some deep breaths, but I found myself smiling a lot too.

Please, let me know if I can help with some resources or a facilitated discussion. I'm always happy to help.

Below are a few science education resources I've heard about. 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.

Cheers,

Kevin

Learning Opportunities

- [AP Science Teacher Summit](#) - Dec 12 in Wisconsin Dells
- [WSELA](#) - Oct 15 - Madison
- [KEEP](#) - Energy education events and resources
- [Out-of-School Time Conference 2024](#) - Nov 12-13, 15 - Wi Dells/Virtual
- [STEM Forward's SySTEMnow Conference](#) - Oct 30 - Milwaukee
- [Mark your calendar for 2025 WSST Conference](#) in Oshkosh - Apr 3-5

Resources

- [Tracking in high school science is problematic!](#) Check out this article.
 - [New Environmental Education Fellow Opportunity](#) - apply by Aug 31
 - [Wisconsin Science Festival and Science Week](#) - Host an event?
 - [Phenomenon](#) - Nova Event to Happen Soon!
 - [Phenomenon](#) - Cans Exploding on Southwest Flights
 - [Are you an NSTA member?](#) Excellent and free NSTA webinar archive!
 - [New Nova Science Studio Videos](#) - produced by students!
 - [Cool story](#) - inspiring the next generation of science teachers!
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Student Opportunities

- [Science Olympiad](#) – Looking for an engaging MS/HS science competition?
 - [Yerkes Observatory](#) - Open for School Visits
 - [Statewide Girls Aviation Day Event](#) - Sat, Sept 21, 1-4pm
 - [eCybermission](#) - free, virtual STEM competition, grades 6-9
 - [NASA TechRise Challenge](#) – grades 6-12, high altitude balloons!
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Details

Learning Opportunities

- AP Science Teacher Summit - Dec 12 in Wisconsin Dells

<https://forms.gle/35SQ8yxNyDZXoFRf6> - Join other AP science teachers on December 12th, from 8:30 to 3, in Wisconsin Dells for a networking and learning summit! The national coordinator for AP Science from College Board, Dr. Serena Magrogan, will be joining us for the day. You'll also be able to hear from colleagues who served as AP readers in the last couple of years. Finally, there will be networking time and sessions to learn from other AP teachers. Registration will be \$50, and includes a light breakfast and lunch. Fill out [this form](#) to be added to the list to receive more information and registration details. There will be a few, limited hotel rooms available for \$98/single, \$129/double+. Please, share this information with other AP teachers you know!

- WSELA - Oct 15 - Madison

All are welcome to attend the Wisconsin Science Education Leadership Association meetings! The next one, on October 15th, will be at the [McKenzie Regional Workforce Center](#), 5215 Verona Rd, Fitchburg (just outside of Madison). Networking and a light breakfast will begin at 8:30, with the meeting lasting from 9 to 3. Lunch will be served. Send me an RSVP by email by Sept 30th with ideas for agenda topics. We could spend some time brainstorming and/or creating new standards support resources with this being the science standards review year. Cost is \$20 for returnees or \$0 for new attendees.

- KEEP - Energy education events and resources

[So many options from KEEP!](#) There is a 6-week [Renew our Schools](#) competition for K-12 students to improve energy efficiency in their school buildings. There are [mini-grants](#) to support school Green Teams. There are a range of professional learning options around the state, including [KidWind](#) and [Solar Energy](#), as well as on-demand offerings.

- Out-of-School Time Conference 2024 - Nov 12-13, 15

<https://www3.uwsp.edu/conted/Pages/Out-of-School-Time-Conference.aspx> - The in-Person Out-of-School Time Conference is intended to reach program coordinators, directors, and administrators. Individuals will walk away with ideas and inspiration to design and lead programs that offer a quality experience for their frontline staff and

program participants. It will take place at Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. On the 15th via Zoom, the virtual -Out-of-School Time Conference is intended to support frontline staff who work day-to-day to offer a quality experiences for youth and their families.

- STEM Forward's sySTEMnow Conference (virtual this year) - Oct 29

<https://www.stemforward.org/systemnow-conference> - This annual conference is a great way to connect with new STEM ideas and learn from districts doing unique work in STEM education. The focus for this year is equity. If you're not familiar with Milwaukee, it is a regional STEM hub/non-profit in Milwaukee, with relevance for work across the state. I'll be attending this meeting!

- Mark your calendar for 2025 WSST Conference in Oshkosh - Apr 3-5

<https://www.wsst.org/2025-conference> - I'm looking forward to the 2025 science teachers' conference in Oshkosh! I'm particularly looking forward to supporting some elementary specific sessions and sessions focused on equity - effective learning for all students. If you're looking for someone with whom to hang out or share a meal, come find me!

Resources

- Tracking in high school science is problematic! Recent article.

<https://wisdpiscience.blogspot.com/2024/05/why-is-tracking-students-problem-part-1.html> - Research (yes, evidence!) suggests that integrated high school science classrooms result in better outcomes for students. The honors, conceptual, regular, advanced, etc. versions of introductory science courses often help teachers (a valid purpose), but end up giving many students a permanent message that they're "not science people." More and more districts are looking at ways to change these inequitable systems. This article is Part 1 in a series.

- New Environmental Education Fellow Opportunity - apply by Aug 31

[Regional Leader Fellowship Opportunity](#) - Apply to be one of six regional fellows in environmental education to network, help lead learning across the state, and advise on future state efforts. You'll receive \$1000 for your time, plus funding to support a regional EE event. Deadline is Aug 31 to apply. [Further details here.](#)

- Wisconsin Science Festival and Science Week – Host an event?!

<https://www.wisconsinsciencefest.org/host/> - It's not too late to sign up to host an official event for "Wisconsin Science Week" at your school or in your community. It could be a range of options from a community science/STEAM night to a guest speaker. This week will also be officially proclaimed again as Wisconsin Science Week by Governor Tony Evers and Superintendent Jill Underly.

- Phenomenon - Nova Event to Happen Soon!

<https://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/space-science/t-coronae-borealis-nova> - while it's not a Super Nova, there will be a temporary brightening soon of T Coronae Borealis, one of

the stars in a binary system. There is a cyclical brightening of the red giant in the system as its partner white dwarf pulls gasses away from it. It will suddenly be as bright as Polaris!

- Phenomenon - Cans Exploding on Southwest Flights

<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/07/27/weather/southwest-airlines-soda-cans-heat-climate/index.html> - There were more than 100 reports of soda cans exploding on flights in June, a phenomenon unique to Southwest, as they do not have refrigerated trucks or storage unlike other airlines. It's another unique result of extreme heat this summer!

- Are you an NSTA member? Excellent and free NSTA webinar archive!

<https://www.nsta.org/webseminars> - If you need another reason to become an NSTA member, consider their excellent web seminar archive. There is a huge range of topics across grade levels, and they're all free for members! They could provide a useful resource for individual or team professional learning.

- New Nova Science Studio Videos - produced by students!

[NOVA Science Studio](#) shared out the videos that students in their program created this past school year investigating big data and its applications to issues in their local communities. The [7 student-produced videos](#) cover a wide range of topics from food insecurity to safe drinking water to vehicle emissions' effect on health. How could your students connect to local issues like these ones and share their learning?

- Cool story - inspiring the next generation of science teachers!

<https://www.postmessengerrecorder.com/content/schools/jumping-teaching---mentoring-next-generation-science-teachers> - I enjoyed reading about this student from Belleville who is planning to become a science teacher! It's awesome that her high school biology teacher gave her a gift to "jump" into the world teaching.

Student Opportunities

- Science Olympiad – Looking for an engaging 6-12 science competition?

<https://www.wisconsinso.org/> - Science Olympiad is a national non-profit working to increase interest in science among all students and recognition excellent student and teacher achievement. While there are regional and state Wisconsin tournaments and after-school clubs, there are also possibilities to integrate the activities into classroom-based learning. There are 23 events to choose from, though individual students don't do all of them. Check out their [website](#) or [brochure](#) for more info, or contact Andy Hamm.

- Yerkes Observatory - Open for School Visits

Yerkes Observatory is excited to welcome school groups for curated educational visits for the 2024-25 school year! Details and information, such as costs per student and other logistics, can be found on the [Yerkes website](#). Plan your school visit today and reach out to Mallory Conlon (mconlon@yerkobservatory.org) with any questions.

- Statewide Girls Aviation Day Event - Sat, Sept 21, 1-4pm

[Statewide Girls in Aviation Day event](#) on Saturday, September 21st - The Wisconsin chapters of Women in Aviation International are excited to host another Girls in Aviation Day! It will be at Morey Field in Middleton for girls age 8-17. It will feature female aviators from across the state and include interactive activities for three age groups: upper elementary school, middle school, and high school.

- eCybermission - free, virtual STEM competition, grades 6-9

<https://ecybermission.com/MiniGrantProgram> - eCYBERMISSION is a free, virtual STEM competition for 6-9 graders. Students form teams of 2-4, led by an adult Team Advisor (usually a teacher or sometimes parent), and use science or engineering to address a community problem. If any teachers are interested in using eCYBERMISSION for their students, they can apply to receive a Mini-Grant valued at \$17-\$26 per student registrant to be used for classroom supplies and as a teaching stipend. The application is open now through November for the 2024-2025 eCYBERMISSION competition, and all relevant information (including the link to apply) can be found on the [website](#).

- NASA TechRise Challenge – grades 6-12, high-altitude balloons!

<https://www.futureengineers.org/nasatechrise> - the challenge from NASA is to design an experiment to test on a high-altitude balloon. The High-Altitude Balloon will offer approximately four to eight hours of flight time at approximately 70,000 to 95,000 feet and exposure to Earth's atmosphere, high-altitude radiation, and perspective views of our planet. A total of 60 winning teams will be selected to build their proposed experiment. Each winning team will be awarded: \$1,500 to build their experiment, a flight box in which to build it, an assigned spot to test their experiment on a NASA-sponsored flight, and technical support. Register today - entries due Nov 1st.

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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