



Hello Science Education Colleagues,

I hope you're finding joy in the beginning of this school year!

Below are a few resources I've heard about lately. If you have announcements to share about science or STEM-related education, 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.

As always, let me know if I can help with some resources, a facilitated virtual discussion, or in-person support (never any cost - just part of the job).

Cheers,

Kevin

Learning Opportunities

- [AP Science Summit](#) - Dec 12, Wisconsin Dells - registration now open!
- [STEM Forward's "sySTEMnow" Conference](#) - Oct 30, Milwaukee
- [Wi Sci Ed Leadership Assoc \(WSELA\) Meeting](#) - Oct 15, Madison
- [ACT Project](#) - setting Performance Level Descriptors - apply by Sep 20
- [Knowles Academy](#) - free online courses this fall across science topics
- [WSST Elementary Book Study](#) - sign up by Oct 11 for free book

Resources

- [Wisconsin Science Week and Festival](#) - Oct 14-20
- [Field Trips](#) - Wisconsin Science Festival - in-person Oct 15, virtual Oct 16
- [Wisconsin Metric week](#) - Oct 6-12
- [Waukesha \(and beyond\) Planetarium Programs](#)
- [Midwest Climate Collaborative Educator Community of Practice](#)
- [Society for Science Grants](#) - supporting student research and equipment

Student Opportunities

- [Expanding Your Horizons](#) - Career exploration opportunity - Nov 2
- [Toshiba/NSTA Exploravision and Science/STEM Fairs](#)

Details

Learning Opportunities

- AP Science Summit - Dec 12, Wisconsin Dells - registration now open!

<https://wsst.wildapricot.org/event-5870689/Registration> - Click this link to register for the AP Science Summit! WSST and DPI are partnering to support a day-long AP Science event, focusing on learning and networking. We'll meet from 8:30 to 3 at the Glacier Canyon Conference Center. 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 are hotel rooms available on a limited basis. Please, share this information with other AP teachers you know!

- STEM Forward's sySTEMnow Conference - Oct 30

<https://www.stemforward.org/systemnow-conference> - This annual conference is a great way to connect with new STEM and STEAM ideas and learn from districts doing unique work in STEM education. If you're not familiar with STEM Forward, it is a regional STEM hub/non-profit in Milwaukee, with relevance for work across the state. I'll be attending and presenting at this meeting! The 21st Annual sySTEMnow will bring together business, education, and the community to share inspiration and best practices. It includes two keynote speakers, multiple breakout sessions, lunch, K-12 STEM displays, networking, and more.

- Wi Sci Ed Leadership Assoc (WSELA) Meeting - 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 Kevin (me) an RSVP by email** by Sept 30th with ideas for agenda topics - you can just reply to this newsletter email. Current topics include ACT Science, science standards, Act 20 efforts related to science, grading practices, and instructional coaching. Cost is \$20 for returnees or \$0 for new attendees.

- ACT Project - setting Performance Level Descriptors - **apply by Sep 20**

<https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/act/educator-involvement> - DPI is recruiting a diverse group of Wisconsin educators to update Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) for the Wisconsin ACT assessment in Science. The Wisconsin ACT PLDs are statements that describe the specific knowledge and skills Wisconsin students typically demonstrate at each performance level (Developing, Approaching, Meeting, and Advanced) on the statewide spring ACT assessments as related to the Wisconsin Science Standards. The meeting will be virtual on Nov 13-14 from 9 to 5, and you have to attend both days. You will receive a \$300 stipend for your work. You'll need to submit an application (bottom of page) and current resume.

- Knowles Academy - free online courses this fall across science topics

<https://knowlesteachers.org/knowles-academy/upcoming-courses> - These evening courses are generally 6:30 to 8 pm and include topics such as phenomenon-based learning in each science subject, integrating engineering, supporting groupwork, and other science pedagogical strategies.

- WSST Elementary Book Study – sign up by Oct 11

<https://www.wsst.org/book-study-elementary> - Join colleagues across Wisconsin for an online book study. The group will read *Sharing Books, Talking Science: Exploring Concepts with Children's Literature* by Valerie Bang-Jensen and Mark Lubkowitz. Read more about the book [here](#). Tentative dates are: Nov 12, Jan 7, Feb 4, and in-person at the WSST Conference April 3rd-5th. The plan is to meet at 7pm these days via Google Meet. All WSST members can receive the book for free (Not a member? [Join now](#) and get the book!).

Resources

- Wisconsin Science Week and Festival - Oct 14-20

<https://www.wisconsin-science-fest.org/> - there are science events all over the state this week, from field trips, to evening talks for adults, to STEM activities for families at your local library. As in past years, Governor Evers and Superintendent Underly have also proclaimed this week to be "Wisconsin Science Week." The Sci Fest website has ideas for how you might celebrate and share the importance of science this week.

- Field Trips - Wisconsin Science Festival - In-person Oct 15, virtual Oct 16

[The application is now open](#) for STEM Field Trips for K-12 students. Sign up now to request a field trip to the Morgridge Institute and UW-Madison campus! They have [in-person](#) and [virtual](#) opportunities for your students to do hands-on science and interact with STEM professionals.

- Wisconsin Metric Week - Oct 6-12

Wisconsin K-12 educators and education communities across the country will observe 2024 National Metric Week (Oct 6 to 12) to raise awareness about the metric system, its benefits in everyday life, and contributions to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) career pathways. The educational holiday occurs annually during the week containing the tenth day of the tenth month (!). Wisconsin K-12 educators are encouraged to celebrate the educational holiday by requesting free classroom [SI Teacher Kits](#) and accessing [online resources](#) to celebrate the holiday and use the metric system throughout the academic year.

- Waukesha (and beyond) Planetarium Programs

Did you know that planetariums are celebrating 100 years in existence? Planetariums provide a unique and essential educational experience and are an invaluable extension of many classroom curriculums. Many children are growing up without seeing the stars. Light

pollution is often a barrier to enjoying a true stargazing experience. Planetariums preserve the night sky while inspiring individuals of all ages to ponder science, the arts, and everything surrounding them. With today's technology, planetariums educate beyond the wonder of a starry night sky by taking you there. Audiences can go on incredible journeys to the solar system, the galaxies, and the edge of space and time. With immersive domes and stunning visuals, planetariums can be a place for "edutainment" or they can connect us to the biggest neighborhood there is—our universe. Head to the [Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium](#) in Waukesha (or others across the state) with your students or with your family and friends to celebrate the centennial of planetariums and explore the universe as we know it. See the [linked flier](#) to learn about all that they have to offer.

- Midwest Climate Collaborative Educator Community of Practice

Climate Generation, the Midwest Climate Collaborative and the Science Education Resource Center relaunching the Midwest Educator Community of Practice, a professional development and community organizing opportunity for educators from K-12, higher ed, and community-based organizations! September 2024 through April 2025 members of the group will be participating in a series of virtual workshops, working groups, and online engagement opportunities to explore current events and climate change education. You can attend one month or all! All virtual meetings will be recorded so you can participate asynchronously. [Sign up for the Community of Practice here](#) to get invitations to events and to participate in our online portal.

- Society for Science Grants - supporting student research and equipment

<https://www.societyforscience.org/outreach-and-equity/stem-research-grants/> - Teachers can apply for up to \$5,000 in order to purchase specialized equipment or \$1,000 in preselected equipment, such as Arduino starter kits, soil test kits, and PocketLab sensors. For the purposes of this grant, a research project is defined as an independent investigation by a student involving experimentation, engineering design, or invention. The grant is not intended to support whole class sets of materials for traditional classroom instruction, but students' independent research projects, which are ideally entered into science fairs and other competitions. There are also grants for non-profits supporting student research and competitions.

Student Opportunities

- Expanding Your Horizons - Career exploration opportunity - Nov 2

eyh.wisc.edu - Expanding Your Horizons Conference is a day of STEM career exploration activities for girls, female-identifying, and non-binary youth in Middle School. Participants will come to UW-Madison campus on Saturday, November 2, 2024, from 10:00am-4:30pm to learn about the wide range of career options for women in science, engineering and math. Through hands-on workshops and visits to workplaces, students find out what it's like to work in different STEM careers. Registration closes October 17. For any additional questions, contact Heather Daniels at heather.daniels@wisc.edu

- Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision and Science/STEM Fairs

<https://www.exploravision.org/> - Toshiba and NSTA's ExploraVision is a great student STEM competition for grades K-12. At its core, students pick a technology they want to improve and describe how they would do that, though there are different requirements and scaffolds at each grade band. There are lots of other competitions and programs where students can get involved in doing science listed at - <https://dpi.wi.gov/science/science-fairs/opportunities>

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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