



STEM

*Education, Exploration, and Innovation,
for Today and Tomorrow*

News You Can Use . . .

September 2013

Technology Center of DuPage Earns National Certification

Technology Center of DuPage was recently awarded national certification for its Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Pathway to Engineering program. PLTW, a nonprofit organization and the nation's leading provider of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education programs, offers a rigorous, world-class curriculum that requires students to apply what they learn in math and science to real-life engineering and technology projects. In 2011, TCD became the first DuPage high school program to implement PLTW Pathway to Engineering. PLTW certification enables students to apply for college credit or receive college recognition at PLTW affiliate universities upon successful completion of select PLTW courses and programs in high school. For more information, visit www.tcdupage.org/programs or contact TCD's Career Counselor, Sheryl Palicki, at 630-691-7600 or sherylp@tcdupage.org



Granger Middle School, Aurora, received a STEM grant last year.

DuPage ROE to Award STEM Grants

The DuPage Regional Office of Education is pleased to announce continuation of its STEM grant program this year. STEM Grants are used to promote STEM educational opportunities in DuPage County public school schools and districts serving middle school and junior high students. Awards of up to \$750 will be granted to qualified applicants. Last year, 17 grants were awarded to support family STEM events; purchase grade appropriate nonfiction STEM related library materials, technology and supplies; and enhance after-school STEM programs. Applications and materials will be made available by September 15. Direct email inquiries to Mary Biniewicz, STEM Coordinator, mbiniewicz@dupage.k12.il.us.

Educational Calculator Requires Students to Think

The age old argument about student use of calculators may be solved with this invention—a calculator that provides the answers but only if students have some understanding of the process. For more information:

<http://theinstitute.ieee.org/technology-focus/technology-topic/educational-calculator-makes-students-think#.Uh4UORS6vhE.email>



Are you STEM Ready?

Integrating STEM curricula and concepts is a process completed over time with many hands involved. This article suggests to readers some of the preparations and considerations to be made whether you are looking to develop a STEM school or academy or simply working as an individual teacher or administrator in influencing the direction of STEM in your school or district. <http://www.middleweb.com/9277/are-you-stem-ready-this-year/>

Upcoming Events

October 9, 2013, 8:30 to 3:00 p.m. ROE Workshop

Practice What you Teach: Beginning Your Journey into Implementing the NGSS Science and Engineering Practices. Participants will use various aspects of the NGSS science and engineering practices to inform an guide the journey. Morning activities focus on argumentation from evidence and the afternoon will target other science and engineering practices. For more information or to register: <https://www.dupage.k12.il.us/register/course.php?recid=5594>

Fermi National Laboratory

Fermi offers year round opportunities for educators, parents, students and families to engage in STEM learning experiences. Explore the numerous options and take advantage of this amazing resource. <http://ed.fnal.gov/>

U of I Extension Offers Workshops for Pre-K – 10th Grade Teachers

Interactive, engaging opportunities to learn and develop hands-on teaching ideas and ready-to-use classroom lessons and materials in math, chemistry, biology, and animal science. For information: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cook/teacherpd/>

Resources

NGSS Resource. Use this interactive tool to identify potential instructional activities that link core ideas with related cross cutting concepts and practices.

[http://concord.org/ngss/?utm_source=The+Concord+Consortium+List&utm_campaign=195ebfc7c3-August 2013 Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4ca9f8d47e-195ebfc7c3-317383565](http://concord.org/ngss/?utm_source=The+Concord+Consortium+List&utm_campaign=195ebfc7c3-August+2013+Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4ca9f8d47e-195ebfc7c3-317383565)

Resource List for Middle School Teachers. NSTA recently published a list of low cost resources to support STEM and science instruction in middle schools. http://science.nsta.org/enewsletter/2013-09/resources_middle.htm

