



## **STEM NEWS IN REVIEW** **October 2008**

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**STEMpalooza is Here – October 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>!** – The first statewide convening conference focused on STEM is bringing together businesses, educators, government agencies, parents and students at the Denver Convention Center. This is a great opportunity for business and industry:

- To meet their future workforce and communicate the rich career opportunities in STEM fields.
- To share your opinions with decision makers and educators about how to improve Colorado's economic competitiveness.
- To hear from Governor Ritter, Nobel Laureate Tom Cech, STEM educators, state and local legislators, and many others.

**Volunteers are needed!** Help make this fabulous day of activities, networking, and fun focused on the science, technology, engineering, and math initiatives from across the state of Colorado a success! We are looking for 150 volunteers to help with responsibilities such as way finding, general information, school group arrival and departure, registration, guest services, etc. Although previous volunteer experience is not required, people with prior experience are encouraged to be Shift Leaders. Volunteers must be 16 years of age or older. Volunteer schedules are in 4 hour blocks for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Please go to [www.stemapalooza.org](http://www.stemapalooza.org) to sign up and for more information. In most cases, these volunteer hours will count towards service learning credits!

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Sharon Unkart at [Sharon.unkart@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Sharon.unkart@ucdenver.edu) or go to: [www.stemapalooza.org](http://www.stemapalooza.org)

### **Schedule at a glance:**

- Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> - 9am – 4pm
  - 9am – 11am – Discussion Session 1: A STEM Career. . .What Are They Thinking – first come, first served basis
  - 11am – 1pm – Luncheon hosted by Governor Bill Ritter and featuring keynote speaker Dr. Thomas R. Cech– must register at [www.stemapalooza.org](http://www.stemapalooza.org)
  - 2 – 3pm – Discussion Session 2: Industry's Future is Now: Engaging Tomorrow's STEM Workforce – first come basis
- Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> - 9am – 4pm – Conference is open to the public, free badges to the first 500 boy scouts and girl scouts

### **Be an Informed Voter**

Elections are just around the corner. You may have made decisions on the candidates running for office, but are you well informed on the long list of ballot initiatives?

Here are some impartial, non-partisan resources to help you become an informed voter:

- [www.coloradobluebook.com](http://www.coloradobluebook.com)
- [www.elections.colorado.gov](http://www.elections.colorado.gov)

## Regional Updates

Denver Metro – The Denver Metro team is hard at work on STEMpalooza. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Sharon Unkart at [Sharon.unkart@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Sharon.unkart@ucdenver.edu)

Highlights include:

- Over 2,000 students registered to attend.
- All booths are sold out.
  - Activities in the booths will include: live animals from the Denver Zoo, Wild Wings, and the Butterfly Pavilion; interactive virtual simulations from Gizmos and PhET; a tornado generator from UNC and a wind tunnel from CCD; Earth Science manipulatives from Earth Treasures; and much more.
- A large video screen will run STEM-related videos throughout the event. Submissions include *Everest 911* from McClain Arts, video biographies of all the scientists working at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, and an inquiry showcase video called "Upward and Outward: Scientific Inquiry on the Tibetan Plateau" from CU Boulder's Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES).
- Space in the back of the exhibit hall is reserved for large scale activities including:
  - Ten 80 FastTrack Racing – design and race cars
  - Red Rocks Community College Process Tech Trailer
  - Skylab Planetarium
  - WWI Airplane and full-scale sailboat built by students at North High School
  - Space Foundation Rocketry – design, build, and launch rockets
  - National Renewable Energy Laboratory's RnE<sup>2</sup>EW propane-powered alternative energy vehicle and a STEM-focused scavenger hunt *complete with prizes*
  - Denver Museum of Nature & Science's Energy at Play "design and build" class
  - UCD Chemistry Department hosting student demonstrations
  - DSST's First Robotics team – a student-centered, competitive robotics engineering program
  - One World Learning
- Confirmed luncheon keynote will be Dr. Tom Cech (Nobel Laureate) with an introduction from Governor Bill Ritter
- Friday morning and afternoon discussion groups centered on the activities of the WIRED grant participants and their survey outcomes.
- An introductory letter, parent letter template, and two posters went out to every middle and high school in Colorado as well as metro elementary schools; we are advertising on RTD and school buses in Metro Denver, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo
- Creating a STEM public service announcement by the Governor on-site.

NorthEast – The Northeastern STEM Center is focused on the sustainability of their efforts through partnerships with business, industry and economic development. In addition, they are making the dissemination of information a priority in their region. For more information, contact Elyn Dickmann at [dickmann@cahs.colostate.edu](mailto:dickmann@cahs.colostate.edu).

Pikes Peak – The Colorado Springs Region of the STEM Network has the following convening meetings scheduled. Contact Lynn Frederick at [lfrederi@uccs.edu](mailto:lfrederi@uccs.edu) for more information.

- **Gunnison - October 23, 2008, 11:30-2:30** - Western State College, Aspinall-Wilson Center, 909 Escalante Drive, Gunnison. Breakfast will be provided.
- **Buena Vista - November 5, 2008, 12:30-3:00** - Buena Vista Community Center. Lunch will be provided.
- **La Junta - November 12, 2008, 11:30-2:30** - Otero Junior College, Room 120, 2001 San Juan Ave., La Junta (handicapped entrance, 5 Western). Lunch will be provided.

The Pikes Peak team recently met with stakeholders in Upper Arkansas Valley and Fairplay on October 6, 7 & 8, 2008

The two themes that came up most often in this area were the need for professional development and competitive salaries. Other rural areas have low salaries also, but the mountain areas also have high cost of living.

West – Contact Teresa Dwire at [t.dwire@yahoo.com](mailto:t.dwire@yahoo.com).

The Western Compact has completed two convening meetings in Grand Junction, the first to gather information and the second to set actions to the tasks identified. They are discussing convening dates with BOCES directors in Northwest, Mountain, and Uncompahgre. The goal is to have the convening sessions in Steamboat, Rifle, Glenwood, Ridgway, and Delta/Montrose scheduled by the end of October. Some of these meetings may occur by the end of November, but a couple might happen after the holidays depending on schedules.

South – Contact LaRita Souza-Corcoran at [larita.souzacorcoran@colostate-pueblo.edu](mailto:larita.souzacorcoran@colostate-pueblo.edu)

The Southern Colorado Region Compact is currently planning a Convening Session in Trinidad, CO. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 2, 2008.

VESTAS is in the process of bringing a wind turbine plant to the Pueblo area. The location will be south of Minnequa Lake, just south of Pueblo. The plant will employ between 450 and 550 employees and provide many jobs. In addition, the city is

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also in the process of establishing a second Industrial Park. Pueblo Community College will host the employee training program for VESTAS employees. PCC and VESTAS are designing the curriculum for the program and hope to have it in place by December. Qualified applicants will be directed to S.O.S. Staffing for job placement. Once hired, the employees will attend the training program at PCC. Interested applicants who are not qualified will be encouraged to acquire a certificate or degree that will qualify them for employment at VESTAS or other companies.

### **Training Announced**

College In Colorado Announces New Series of Free Trainings - Please plan to join us for upcoming free College In Colorado Trainings across the State. Whether you're a Counselor, Pre-Collegiate Service Provider, CTE Educator, Administrator or Youth Advocate, you'll find that [www.CollegeInColorado.org](http://www.CollegeInColorado.org) has been enhanced and enriched with every element you'd expect of a really effective "one-stop-shop". With over 211, 000 Colorado secondary school students enrolled, [www.CollegeInColorado.org](http://www.CollegeInColorado.org) is the place to go for all you need to know/teach about career and college planning.

To register, just log on to

<http://www.coloradogearup.org/trainingregistration/training.asp>

Upcoming dates include

Scheduled Events

- 10/29/2008 - Denver Metro - Middle School Intensive
- 10/29/2008 - Denver Metro - Half Day HS Comprehensive
- 10/30/2008 - Denver Metro - Professional Tools and Resources
- 10/30/2008 - Denver Metro - Test Preparation and Coursework Planners
- 11/10/2008 - Pueblo - Middle School Intensive
- 11/10/2008 - Pueblo - Half Day HS Comprehensive
- 11/11/2008 - Pueblo - Professional Tools and Resources
- 11/11/2008 - Pueblo - Test Preparation and Coursework Planners
- 12/11/2008 - North Front Range - Middle School Intensive
- 12/11/2008 - North Front Range - Half Day HS Comprehensive
- 12/12/2008 - North Front Range - Professional Tools and Resources
- 12/12/2008 - North Front Range - Test Preparation and Coursework Planners

### **Upcoming Events**

- October 23 – Colorado STEM Network Gunnison Convening meeting, email: [lfrederi@uccs.edu](mailto:lfrederi@uccs.edu)
- October 24 – 25 - STEMpalooza - [www.stemapalooza.org](http://www.stemapalooza.org)
- October 30 – November 1 – National Middle School Association Conference - [www.nmsa.org/](http://www.nmsa.org/)
- November 5 - Girls Exploring Science, Engineering & Technology (GESET) – volunteers needed, [swegeset@gmail.com](mailto:swegeset@gmail.com)
- November 6– 7 – Colorado MESA Fall Fling – volunteers needed, [www.cmesa.org](http://www.cmesa.org)
- November 12-14 – Colorado School Counselors Association
- November 13-14 – AVID Awareness Session
- November 19 – Governor Ritter's P-20 Council meeting (St. Cajetan's Center, Metro State College of Denver)
- December 5 – Final 2008 meeting of Governor Ritter's P-20 Council (location TBD)

### **How to get involved:**

- Attend a regional convening session
- Participate in your regional STEM Center
- Help students understand what opportunities STEM provides to them
- Get industries involved and talking about the skills they need their future workforce to have
- Get to know the decision makers in your community and communicate the value and relevance of STEM education
- Help STEM-focused organizations with networking

**For more information go to [www.ColoradoSTEMeducation.com](http://www.ColoradoSTEMeducation.com)**

**or call Nicole McGee at 303-882-0923**

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