



Anne Hornickel <ahornick@umn.edu>

Fall Newsletter - Northeast MN STEM Network meeting set

SciMathMN/MN STEM Network <SciMathMNMN_STEM_Network@mail.vresp.com>

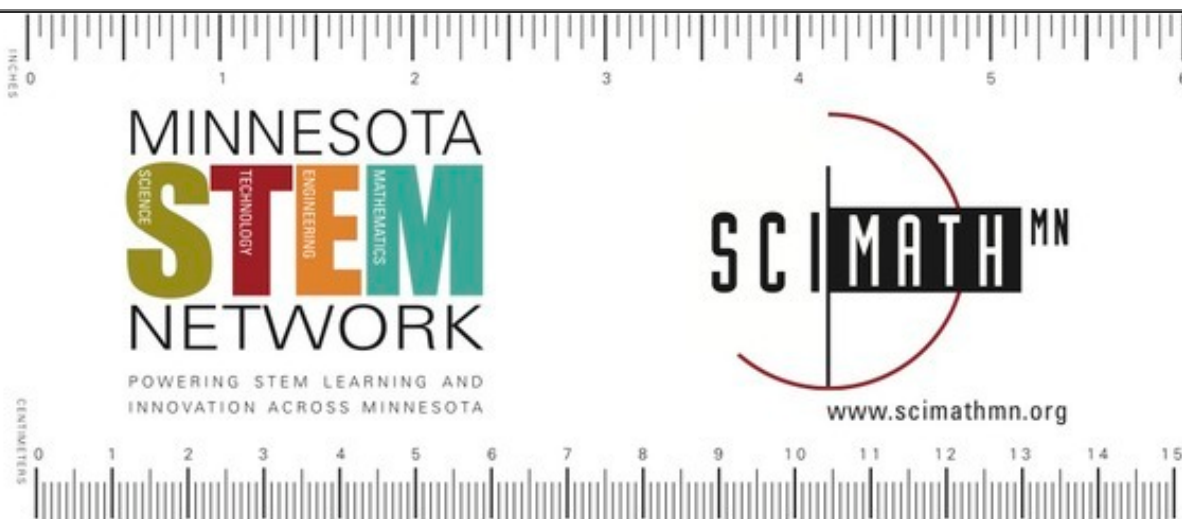
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Reply-To: SciMathMN/MN STEM Network <reply-58f34fcb5a-216960ab96-8ed7@u.cts.vresp.com>

To: ahornick@umn.edu



Fall 2012 Newsletter



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SciMathMN is a non-profit, statewide education and business coalition advocating for quality K-12 science, mathematics and technology education based on research.

Letter from the Board Chair of SciMathMN

The SciMathMN Board of Directors are pleased to announce the hiring of Peter Lindstrom as the organization's new executive director.

Lindstrom will continue to serve at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs where he is the assistant director of the Center for Science, Technology & Public Policy and fulfill his new duties with SciMathMN on a contract basis. He brings more than 15 years of experience in public policy advocacy, communication, marketing and event management. He previously served as vice president of public affairs at the Minnesota High Tech Association.



Peter joins us at a pivotal moment in the history of SciMathMN. Peter will help accelerate the growth of our important new initiative, the Minnesota STEM Network, while sustaining the service SciMathMN has always provided to advancing STEM education in Minnesota.

The SciMathMN board of directors are very grateful for Sally Standiford's steadfast leadership during the intense years of developing and implementing the STEM Teacher Center and the initial growth of the Minnesota STEM Network. We will miss her spirit and passion for STEM education!

--Richard Hudson, Chair of the SciMathMN Board of



education based on research, national standards and effective practices.

Major initiatives include policymaker briefings, the [STEM Teacher Center](#) online resource and the Minnesota STEM Network.



The Minnesota STEM Network is aimed at addressing critical issues in improving STEM education in Minnesota. By articulating and aligning strategies, and effectively communicating the value of STEM, the network is committed to powering STEM learning and innovation across Minnesota.

The leadership team worked with recommendations from strategic planning and input at the May 1 meeting to prepare a revised executive summary, available as a pdf at www.mnstemnet.org.

Follow the MN STEM Network on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/MNSTEMNetwork>

Join the MN STEM Network on LinkedIn

Post news and events so that everyone in the network can stay up-to-date on STEM activities and news in Minnesota. Hurry- Join us today. [MNSTEM group](#)



Advance IT Minnesota Hosts the First "Minnesota Aspirations for Women in Computing Award"

Advance IT Minnesota has announced that it is hosting the first "Minnesota Aspirations for Women in Computing Award. High school age young women will

Directors and Director of Science Production at **tpt**, Twin Cities Public Television



Northeast Minnesota STEM Network Meeting Set for Thursday, November 8, 8:30-11:30

Blackwoods Conference Center, Hwy 2, Proctor

The Northeast Minnesota STEM Network will meet for the first time this November. The meeting will take place on Thursday, November 8th from 8:30 – 11:30am in Proctor, MN. Anne Hornickel, a member of the executive committee of SciMathMN, has introduced the STEM Network to more than 40 stakeholders in Northeast Minnesota since spring. She has been developing relationships with stakeholders of STEM education and workforce development across the state through her Bush Fellowship.

The November 8th program, planned by a local ad-hoc committee, includes a panel presentation on regional workforce needs, employer, educator and youth development perspectives, and examples of collaborations across sectors. Networking will be included before and during the meeting, as getting to know other stakeholders is a primary goal of the network. Small group discussions will focus on the top priorities for regional goals.



During the second week of October, an email with a registration link for the meeting will be sent out to stakeholders in Northeast Minnesota. An article and link to registration will also be on the mnstemnet.org page.

Ms. Hornickel has also presented to the Rochester Math and Science Partnership in April, met over 25 stakeholders in Southwest Minnesota in August, and began conversations with regional leaders in Central Minnesota and Northwest Minnesota. She plans several more trips throughout the remainder of her Bush Fellowship.

Developing the network in Minnesota regions has always been a goal of the Minnesota STEM Network. Strategic planning in 2011 underscored the desire for networks at the regional scale. The November 8th meeting is an exciting step in the growth of the Minnesota STEM network.

October Social Hour at The Bell Museum of Natural History, Wednesday, October 10, 2012, 4:30 - 6:30pm

The next social hour will be held at the [Bell Museum of Natural History](#) on Wednesday, October 10. Social hours are relaxed opportunities for STEM Network colleagues to meet for the first time, renew acquaintances, or catch up with long-time colleagues. Regardless of how long we have known one another, there are always new connections being made. We also appreciate these opportunities to visit our STEM institutions. Feel free to invite other adults who might be interested in attending.

BELL MUSEUM
OF NATURAL HISTORY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM

The Bell Museum of Natural History is gateway to the natural wonders of

encourage young women will be recognized for their computing-related achievements and interests.

The technology award, founded in 2007 by the non-profit organization National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT), honors young women in high school grades 9-12 from throughout the United States. Plans are currently underway to offer a Minnesota Affiliate award opportunity as well.



Student-generated applications may be submitted from mid-September through early November. For more information, visit aspirationsaward.org. To support the award program, Advance IT Minnesota is seeking partners and volunteers to donate prizes and possibly provide future internships for award winners. They're also seeking help promoting the contest through relationships that technology companies in the

Twin Cities area have with local high schools. If you'd like to learn more or provide prizes or support outreach efforts, please contact Russell Fraenkel, Advance IT Minnesota Director of Collaborative Programs and Outreach, at Russell.Fraenkel@metrostate.edu or 651-253-9438.

our state as they provide opportunities for students and teachers to learn about the natural world through lively classroom offerings, professional development and educational tools.



The Bell Museum also hosts the mobile planetarium, the ExploraDome, which brings the whole universe into the classroom delivered underneath a 25-foot diameter dome. The new on-site portal dome delivers the same astounding view of the universe as the inflatable ExploraDome, but with an open feel. It's been described as "walking in to a wall of solid cool."

The Bell Museum is located at the corner of 17th Street S.E. and University Avenue. Nearest parking is in the 4th Street Ramp or the Church Street Ramp (17th Street south of University is renamed Church Street).

[Register for the October social hour at the Bell Museum via the mnstemnet.org page.](http://mnstemnet.org)

September Social Hour. Thanks to the board and staff of [The Works](http://TheWorks.org) for hosting about 30 Network members on September 13. If your institution would like to host a social hour, contact Jerry Sosinske at jerry@sosinske.com.

November Social Hour. [High Tech Kids](http://HighTechKids.org) welcomes the STEM Network to one of the FIRST LEGO League competitions as a location for a social hour. Save the date of Saturday, November 17th from 1 - 3pm to visit the competition at Plymouth Middle School, 10011 36th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN 55441. [Directions.](#)



Vital Signs Report for Minnesota Released

[Change the Equation](#), (CTEq) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, CEO-led initiative that is mobilizing the business community to improve the quality of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning in the United States. It has recently released its second edition of the [Vital Signs](#).

Vital Signs are capsule summaries of STEM workforce needs, student achievement in math and science, rigor of state standards and levels of proficiencies, teacher preparedness, and availability of resources for each state. The Minnesota Vital Signs are available as a pdf on the mnstemnet.org page. More data on Minnesota are available at the changetheequation.org site.

Since its launch in September 2010, CTEq has helped its more than 100 members connect and align their philanthropic and advocacy efforts so that they add up to much more than the sum of their parts.

White Paper on Workforce Readiness in the Manufacturing Sector

Manufacturing Sector

The [Society of Manufacturing Engineers](#) (SME) has prepared a white paper entitled "Workforce Imperative: A Manufacturing Education Strategy."

The white paper calls for action in six areas:

- attracting more students into manufacturing;
- articulate a standard core of manufacturing knowledge;
- improve the manufacturing curriculum;
- integrate manufacturing curriculum into STEM;
- develop faculty to teach manufacturing;
- strategically deploy resources.

WORKFORCE IMPERATIVE:
A MANUFACTURING
EDUCATION STRATEGY



An estimated 600,000 manufacturing jobs are currently unfilled across the nation and many retirements are expected in the next decade. The shortage of candidates for advanced manufacturing engineers, technologists and technicians is already being felt in many industries. Collaboration among many educational, industry and government organizations will be needed to implement the recommendations to meet present and future needs. This collaboration is exactly what state STEM networks are intended to do. Please download your copy from the link on the [publications page](#) and begin to make local and regional connections to work toward these recommendations. Further questions and comments may be directed to Ron Bennett, Professor Emeritus at University of St. Thomas, and director, SME Center for Education, at rjbennett@stthomas.edu.



First Annual Minnesota Aerospace & Aviation Week September 16 - 22, 2012

Minnesota native Bob Cabana, head of the Kennedy Space Center, helped launch Minnesota's first annual Aerospace & Aviation Week, which kicked off with a balloon launch at the Twins game on Sunday, Sept. 16th. University of Minnesota Aerospace Engineering students sent a baseball signed by Justin Morneau and Josh Willingham to near space. [Link to news story.](#)

Mr. Cabana shared his compelling message about the importance of dreaming big and STEM education in visits with state leaders, news media, a breakfast at Base Camp, a statewide webinar held by the Minnesota Department of Education and site visits to Washburn High School in Minneapolis and Farnsworth PreK-8 Aerospace in St. Paul.



The week concluded with Workforce Day on Sept. 21, when organizations and schools connected via the statewide getSTEM website for tours and presentations and Flight Day, Sept. 22, when flights, balloon and rocket launches were held for students, teachers and families in local communities.

Minnesota Aerospace & Aviation Week was the first initiative of AirSpace Minnesota, a new non-profit created to showcase Minnesota's aerospace and aviation achievements and impact, past and present. AirSpaceMN.org

Photo provided by NASA.

Third Annual STEM Day Was a Big Success!

By all estimates, attendance at the third annual STEM Day at the State Fair doubled--serving nearly 4,000 visitors--compared to last year. Carousel Park was humming with activity all day long as families enjoyed hands-on STEM activities. Youth assembled planes on computers using 3D design software at the STARBASE booth, designed model wind turbines to generate the most electricity at the St. Cloud State booth, and saw a projection of the night sky in the ExploraDome of the Bell Museum of Natural History.



Everyone enjoyed testing structures against a model tsunami in a wave tank at the MTS Corp. booth and operating the robots built by FIRST Robotics teams. Physics Force, the Chemistry Show, the Bakken Museum performers and the Raptor Center drew audiences on the hour.

In between shows, the Minnesota High Tech Association and the Minnesota Department of Education announced the expansion and regional development of getSTEM, a service linking 'asks' and 'offers' between business and education.

Dale Klapmeier, co-founder and CEO of Cirrus Aircraft and board chair of AirSpace Minnesota, announced the first annual Minnesota Aerospace and Aviation Week held from September 16 - 22, 2012.

We are grateful for the financial support of our STEM Day sponsors: An individual gift from **Mike and Becky Thyken** and corporate support from **3M, ATK, Boston Scientific, H.B. Fuller and MTS Systems**. In-kind support was provided by the **University of Minnesota** and **Seagate**.

SciMathMN
www.scimathmn.org
Email: info@scimathmn.org

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SciMathMN
120 West Kellogg Boulevard
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102
US

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