

News, Events, and Opportunities

Letter from the Executive Director

As education emerges from the pandemic's disruptive impact, the challenges we face are real. Students have experienced delays in learning, staff are stressed, and schools are challenged in finding the staff they need to fill a variety of roles.

At the same time, education isn't alone in its challenges, especially in attracting and retaining workers. Looking at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's [Job Vacancy Survey](#), you see the need for STEM-prepared and skilled employees in many industries. Healthcare vacancies are high on the list, manufacturing, transportation, computer, and construction jobs are also in high demand, and many pay living wages.

This can be a time when those of us who advocate for equitable access to STEM skills need to speak up to policymakers. The recent [NAEP math scores](#) are a call to action starting at our youngest grades. Minnesota has new science standards and soon will have new math standards as well. There are opportunities for Minnesota to not just recover from the impact of the pandemic but use this as a springboard for strengthening opportunities for students and better connecting student interests and aspirations with the economic needs of the state.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, we spotlight the Minnesota Technology Association for its leadership on the importance of computer science education. Minnesota ranks 50th in the nation in computer science as reported by [Code.org](#). A bill to convene a group of stakeholders to develop a plan on how to change that was introduced in the Minnesota legislature last year but failed to pass. SciMathMN is committed to working with all partners on getting that bill to the Governor's desk in the coming session. I hope you can join us and our partners in that effort.



Jim Davnie
Executive Director

Move Minnesota Forward

Volunteer Opportunity | We need your passion and expertise!

Are you looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity, putting your skills, expertise, passion, and network to use?! Consider volunteering on one of SciMathMN's committees including the Minnesota STEM Network.

Contact Jim Davnie at execdir@scimathmn.org for more information. Please share this opportunity with others in your network!



Partner with us to move Minnesota Forward on STEM Education

Our sincere thanks to those who donated to support our commitment to moving Minnesota forward on STEM education and shared this important message with their networks.

We couldn't do this important work without our community of partners and supporters, and we're excited about what's in store this year. This includes strengthening collaborations among the business, education, civic, and community STEM leaders through upcoming Minnesota STEM Network events and another Great Minnesota STEM Get Together at STEM Day at the Fair (see announcement below).

This year, your support means more than ever. Please [make a donation](#) and continue to follow us for updates to get involved.

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

Your donation helps support important work like:



Raising awareness as a nonpartisan resource for policymakers interested in STEM education opportunities



Providing STEM Learning resources for the classroom



Strengthening collaborations among the business, education, civic, and community STEM leaders

Give Today!

Save the Date!

STEM Day at the Minnesota State Fair 2023

As temperatures are dropping we're thinking about our favorite day of summer, STEM Day at the Fair, which will be held once again at Dan Patch Park on Thursday, August 24, 2023.

It may be 260+ days away, but we encourage sponsors and partners to start planning your involvement. Last year we had a fantastic variety of booths and activities, including many partnerships between corporate and non-profit organizations who teamed up to provide a multi-faceted engagement for both their employees and fair-goers.

We'll be in touch in the New Year with more details about sponsor and exhibitor opportunities, but in the meantime please email execdir@scimathmn.org to express your interest in being a sponsor and/or exhibitor at the 2023 STEM Day at the Fair!



Partner Spotlight



The status of teaching has had its challenges of late. At points in the past few years, teachers were lauded as heroes of the pandemic, then quickly targeted for all sorts of culture war topics. The stress of the past few years, pivoting between in-person, remote, and hybrid approaches while protecting their own health and the health of others has added to high rates of stress. That has left many teachers feeling overwhelmed and beaten down.

Elevate Teaching, a Minnesota nonprofit committed to running the state of teaching around, says, "Perceptions of what it means to be a teacher and what a teaching career looks like, are at all-time lows. Survey data shows that many people view teaching as a low-paying, low-satisfaction occupation." But it doesn't have to be that way and Elevate Teaching is committed to changing the perception of teaching and recruiting new teachers into the field.



The Professional Educators Licensing and Standards Board in Minnesota, with Elevate Teaching, is starting an outreach program to elevate the perception of teaching and recruit more people into teaching. They are putting a critical new emphasis on recruiting people of color and indigenous people into the field. Minnesota's student body is 38% of color while only 7% of our teachers are of color. Research shows that all students do better, especially students of color, when there are more teachers of color or indigenous

teachers in their schools.

PELSB and Elevate Teaching are looking for input from all as part of the information and research phase exploring the motivation of high school and college students considering teaching and impediments to retaining teachers on their career paths. Dr. Rose Wan-Mui Chu is leading this effort. Individuals interested in volunteering with this effort should email Yes@ElevateTeaching.US.

[Learn more](#)

STEM Opportunities



You are invited to the first-ever Coding at the Capitol in Minnesota

To show our support for K-12 computer science, we're hosting a coding event at the Minnesota State Capitol. Join Minnesota students as they show you what they can build by coding. Students will also help YOU write a line of code!

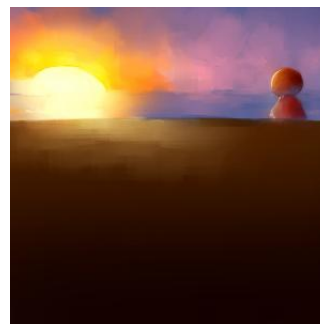
Today, only 21% of high schools in Minnesota offer a computer science class. These students will show you why all students deserve access to this foundational skill.

Wednesday, January 11th, 2023
10am-Noon
Capitol Rotunda



2022's Best Science Books for Kids

The holidays are right around the corner, which means for those who give gifts in December, now is the time to start putting together that shopping list. If you have a young person in your life who loves science, why not expand their library and...



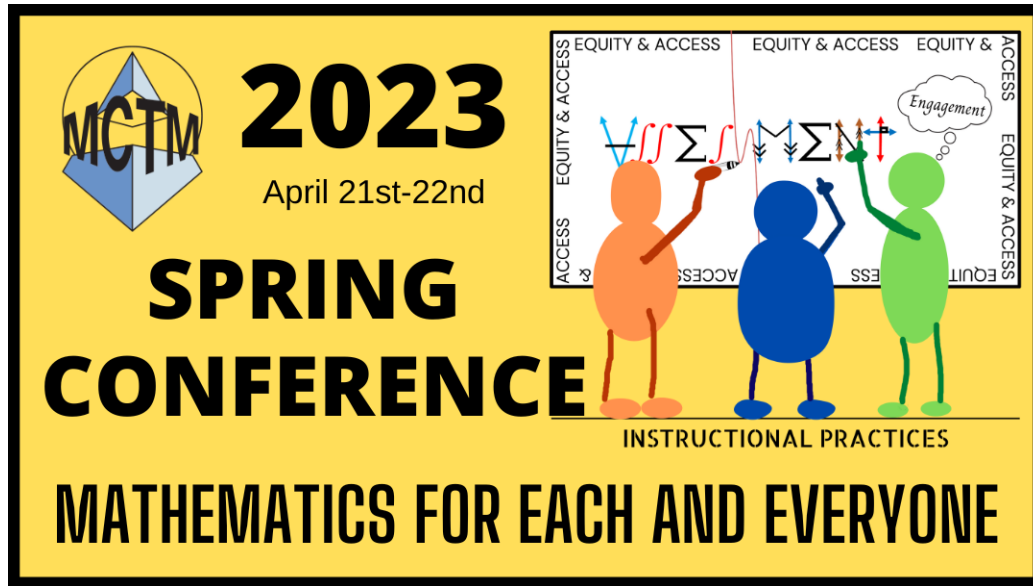
NAAEE Monthly Webinar Series

Each month, NAAEE offers hour-long webinars on topics of key interest to environmental education professionals in formal and nonformal settings that will help

[Read more](http://www.sciencefriday.com)
www.sciencefriday.com

raise the bar on the quality of EE programs, expand the scope and reach of these...

[Read more](http://eeepro.naaee.org)
eeepro.naaee.org



2023 MCTM Spring Conference

An affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The MCTM is an organization of professionals dedicated to promoting the teaching and learning of meaningful mathematics for all students by supporting educators in their efforts to...

[Read more](http://www.mctm.org)
www.mctm.org



Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, including...

The U.S. Department of Education (Department) launched "YOU Belong in STEM," an initiative to galvanize the broad STEM education ecosystem to implement and scale equitable and high-quality STEM education for all young...

[Read more](http://www.ed.gov)
www.ed.gov



Engineering Machine Design Contest | Registration Open

Registration is open for the 2023 Engineering Machine Design Contest regional events including Anoka (MN), St. Cloud (MN), and Winona (MN). Teams Design and build a complex machine using everyday objects with the guidance of a coach...

[Read more](#)

engineering.mnsu.edu

Businesses Sought to Provide Summer 2023 Paid Internships

Recently, numerous Minnesota technology business leaders attended an event at Target Field in Minneapolis to learn more about the 10-year Minnesota Aspirations in Computing Award (MNAiC) summer internship program and consider becoming a summer...

[Read more](#)

mnstateitcoe.org

Google I.T. Course Trainings

No Degree or Experience Necessary! Due to increasing need for workers in the tech workforce, the Minnesota State I.T. Center of Excellence has partnered with Google I.T. to help Minnesota residents 18 and over earn the Google IT Support Certificate.

[Read more](#)

mnstateitcoe.org

Career Exploration Trailer

Our Career Exploration Trailer comes to you, for free with interactive and hands-on activities that let students explore the high-tech side of transportation careers in Automotive, Collision & Repair, Heavy Equipment, Heavy Truck and Diesel,...

[Read more](#)

www.minntran.org



This 33-year-old made more than 1,000 Wikipedia bios for ...

Jessica Wade began writing Wikipedia biographies about women and minority scientists who never got their due — from employers, from other scientists, from the public.

[Read more](https://www.today.com)
www.today.com