



Fall 2016 Newsletter

MINNESOTA **STEM** NETWORK

POWERING STEM LEARNING AND INNOVATION ACROSS MINNESOTA

AN INITIATIVE OF **SCIMATH^{MN}**



Science - Technology - Engineering - Mathematics

SciMathMN

advocates for effective, engaging, and rigorous STEM educational opportunities for all Minnesota students, preparing them for citizenship, career, and college.



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

The Minnesota STEM Network

is an outreach initiative of SciMathMN which

- increases engagement in education
- builds community among stakeholders
- promotes STEM
- shares practices and resources and
- improves communications.

Learn more about the [Minnesota STEM Network](#).

Letter from the SciMathMN Executive Director

It has been a busy few months for STEM education advocates, practitioners, and professionals. Summer ended with the 7th annual STEM Day at the Fair. The weather was perfect adding to the event being a rousing success for exhibitors, stage performers, children and families. Over 30 exhibitors showed everything from computer coding, robotics, electricity experiments, rocketry, space exploration and other activities for the over 12,000 fair-goers who came through Carousel Park that day. MN.IT Commissioner Tom Baden presented the proclamation from Governor Dayton proclaiming August 27 as "[STEM Day at the State Fair Day in Minnesota](#)" a first ever recognition for the event from any Governor's office.

September included the Northeast Minnesota conference "Celebrations, Barriers, and Solutions to STEM Access in NE Minnesota. The conference highlighted the strength of the network in that region, collaborating across different sectors to highlight the value and provide access to STEM opportunities. The need for better broadband services across Minnesota was highlighted as a key strategy for education and business development in the Arrowhead and across Minnesota.

October has started with a strong conference lead by the Aerospace Industries Association, creating a call to action at the intersection of STEM education and workforce development. Industry speakers illustrated the variety of STEM related occupations that touch the growing aeronautics industry in Minnesota, the region, and country.

The energy around STEM education at all levels continues this month and next as both the American Indian Science and Engineering Society holds their national conference in Minneapolis, and the National Science Teacher Association holds their regional conference also in Minneapolis. More about those opportunities in the calendar section of this newsletter.

Jim Davnie
Executive Director
SciMathMN

Support SciMathMN in its advocacy for STEM





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Communicating the Value of STEM to the Public

The Minnesota High Tech Association has developed these infographics for sharing with the general public.

[Why STEM Education](#) and [Girls in STEM](#)

Calendar Highlights

October 27-29 NSTA Regional Conference

November 10-12 American Indian Science & Engineering Society National Conference

Follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn

Follow [@MNSTEMNetwork](#) for the latest in STEM news and events.

Post announcements on [MN STEM Network group](#) on



Scholarships

The [Alwork Memorial Fund Foundation](#) awards (60) \$20,000 scholarships each spring to Northeastern and Central Minnesota high school seniors who plan to major in mathematics or science based fields of study. The list of counties that are eligible and the scholarship criteria may be found on our website www.alworthscholarship.org

The [University of St. Thomas Center for Engineering Education](#) will be awarding graduate course scholarships for summer 2017 courses. More information at <http://www.stthomas.edu/cee/>

STEM - Conferences

National Science Teachers Association Regional Conference October 27-29, 2016 Minneapolis

The Conference focuses on three strands that aim will enable educators to bring better science education to all students: **Teaching Science in a Connected World** is a digital literacy strand. Educators attending the sessions in this strand will explore instructional materials, technologies and strategies for effective learning for students and adults, and responsible use of digital resources and processes. **STEMify Instruction through Collaboration Across the Curriculum** is a strand in which attendees will explore models of integrated STEM education programs, learn strategies to effectively STEMify lessons, and investigate how to effectively engage students. **Celebrating Elementary Science and Literacy Connections** is a strand to help educators gain confidence in teaching science, learn strategies for literacy and science integration, and celebrate elementary science. The **American Society for Engineering Education ASEE** will provide an engineering strand on October 28th. Conference information and registration at www.nsta.org/conferences.

American Indian Science and Engineering Society National Conference: Traditional Knowledge *New Ideas* A Better World November 10-12, 2016 Minneapolis

Attendees include Native American high school and college students, educators, professionals, tribal nations and tribal enterprises, universities, corporations, and government agencies. Registration is now open at <http://conference.aises.org/>

Mary Shelley and her monster are coming to The Bakken Museum

On Saturday, October 29th from 10:30am to 3:30pm come see the public opening of the new *Mary and Her Monster* exhibit at [The Bakken Museum](#) and explore the world of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* with fun activities for the whole family. Costumes

Encouraged!
NSTA Area Conference attendees receive free admission.

Code Day is coming to The Works Museum

[Code Day](#), where industry and academic partners help kids discover the power of computer science, is coming to [The Works Museum](#) on Saturday, December 10. See you there!

SciMathMN Updates

SciMathMN is currently assessing funding needs for both for maintenance and expansion of the content and features of the MN STEM Teacher Center. We are also considering the needs the Center will have when the Minnesota science and mathematics standards are reviewed and revised in the next few years, which will likely result in the need for significant changes to the content on the site and opportunities for enhancing the site.

Read more at <http://scimathmn.org/stem-teacher-center-update/>

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