



# Summer 2016 Newsletter

## MINNESOTA **STEM** NETWORK

POWERING STEM LEARNING AND INNOVATION ACROSS MINNESOTA

AN INITIATIVE OF **SCIMATH<sup>MN</sup>**



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](#).

### Support SciMathMN in its advocacy for STEM



### Letter from the SciMathMN Executive Director

Mark your calendar for STEM Day at the State Fair! Minnesota loves to come together at the end of the summer and for the seventh year the Fair opens with a celebration of hands-on STEM and engaging stage performances in Carousel Park. We're grateful to 3M, MTS, Boston Scientific, H.B. Fuller, Bemidji State University, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation for their support in making STEM Day possible again this year.

This year's STEM Day includes many returning favorite exhibitors bringing robots, engineering, math and other engaging activities. In addition, there will be a number of new participants that will bring air flight, rocketry, and student academic excellence to the event. The stage show includes an exciting visit from the Flying Gizmo show of the Museum of Flight in Seattle, Washington,

This year's STEM Day is Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate to a broad spectrum of Minnesota youth and parents what STEM fun looks like and how important it is to their future and the future of Minnesota. You can help by "Liking" the [STEM Day Facebook page](#) and letting people in your network know of this one-day opportunity to kick off the Fair.

Returning to the Fair this year will be "Math on a Stick," a set of activity tables, visiting mathematicians, and the Number Game throughout the Fair. Math on a Stick will help younger learners to see math through the Fair and throughout everyday life. Click here to learn more about [Math on a Stick](#).

Jim Davnie  
Executive Director  
SciMathMN





powered by **TAZOO**



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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](#)

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## Calendar Highlights

### STEM Day at the Fair August 25

Held at the State Fair Grounds.

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### Follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn

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

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



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## STEM Day at the Fair Thursday, August 25

STEM Day at Carousel Park: The Land of 10,000 Lakes is home to incomparable opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics! Fair guests get an up-close look in intriguing, interactive adventures brought to the fair by 35 organizations in the Minnesota STEM Network, an initiative of SciMathMN: Design features for a State Fair building and a zoo exhibit; build a battery with coins; make a food web; step inside the ExploraDome to see the night sky; test principles of aerodynamics with paper airplanes and clay model cars; learn about the role of polymers in diapers and movies; experiment with water pressure; maneuver robots to tackle challenges; test your engineering abilities by building a bridge; learn about biosecurity, rocketry, aquatics robotics and computer coding; and more! On the Carousel Park Stage, engaging presentations feature the University of Minnesota Raptor Center and Physics Force. (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

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## STEM - Continuing Education

**UST Center for Engineering Education** offers graduate coursework in engineering education. Applications are being accepted for spring 2017 Engineering Design and summer 2017 Engineering in the P-12 Classroom, Digital Electronics and Manufacturing Engineering. Engineering and education instructors work with educators to construct innovative, engaging STEM curriculum. A four course graduate certificate is available and coursework is transferrable. <http://www.stthomas.edu/cee/>

**The Minnesota Zoo** is offering a variety of teacher professional development opportunities this summer. ZOOMS, Engineering a New Zoo Through Math and Science, programming includes techniques in incorporating the zoo and animals in engineering concepts into school curriculum, and challenges for students on designing a zoo that meets the needs of animals including snow monkeys and grizzly bears. Continuing education credits are available. <http://tinyurl.com/zh82q93>

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## STEM - Conferences

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

Conference information and registration at [www.nsta.org/conferences](http://www.nsta.org/conferences)

### American The 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/>

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### **3M Visiting Wizard Teacher Workshop for Elementary and Middle School Science Teachers, Friday, September 30**

The 3M Teachers Workshop is geared for elementary and middle school teachers. The goal is to share how science is fun and generate excitement for science in the classroom. Teachers receive fun "make-n-take" science activities that might be applicable in their classrooms, as well as expose them to other local resources.

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### **Career and Technology Education**

What do we mean by STEM education? Is it an approach to education or targeted set of career paths? What role does Career and Technical Education play in STEM? The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction explored these questions and more in its report "[\*From Career Pipeline to STEM Literacy for All\*](#)".

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