



# Spring 2017 Newsletter

## MINNESOTA **STEM** NETWORK

POWERING STEM LEARNING AND INNOVATION ACROSS MINNESOTA

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

Engaging stakeholders from  
the broader community to advance  
quality STEM education for all learners

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](#)

### Calendar Highlights

[MCTM Spring Conference](#)

April 28-29

### Letter from the SciMathMN Executive Director

As I write there are a few snow piles still melting after an odd, at times too warm a winter. In the STEM fields it has been an odd time too as challenges to scientific data, methodology, and public debate on issues of science and the environment have mirrored the social and political turbulence we see in other fields. How we as STEM advocates respond has been a point of discussion and debate, sometimes passionately. People look to us for insight and leadership on how to approach these debates.

One of the common values of STEM education is collaboration, working as a team, in an interdisciplinary way. Happily there are a number of opportunities for us to gather and continue the discussion. The March for Science Minnesota, conferences hosted by Minnesota professional organizations of teacher of math, science and technology, and others. There are scholarship opportunities listed below, and of course the best day of summer, STEM Day at the Minnesota State Fair.

Exhibitor applications for STEM Day, Thursday, August 24, are now available on the [SciMathMN website](#). The event has been growing every year and is a great way to show off to Minnesotans what hands on STEM education can mean for today's students and tomorrow's workforce. I hope you can join us.

Jim Davnie  
Executive Director  
SciMathMN



### Exhibit at STEM Day at the Fair

#### August 24, St. Paul

The 8th annual SciMathMN STEM Day at the State Fair, Minnesota's annual celebration of all things STEM will again open the Great Minnesota Get Together. Past years have seen a broad variety of hands on activities for fair goers in relation

DECC Convention Center, Duluth, MN

### [MTEEA Conference](#)

September 29-30

### [MnSTA Science Teachers](#)

#### [Conference](#)

November 10-11

St. Cloud, MN

### **Support SciMathMN**



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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



### **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](#)

years have seen a broad variety of hands-on activities for fair goers in robotics, aeronautics and aerospace, programming, modern manufacturing, and a host of other STEM fields. The event attracts a wide variety of fair goers with a growing number of families coming the first day of the fair specifically to attend STEM Day. More information is at this site. Groups wishing to apply to be an exhibitor can

<http://tinyurl.com/h5kfy4h>

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## **Spring 2017 STEM Educator Playdates**

The University of St. Thomas is hosting FREE monthly playdates for educators, artists, and makers. Learn more about the sharing and creativity at

<https://goo.gl/nNvPR2>

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## **Jean Tushie Honored NSTA Distinguished Teaching Award**

Eden Prairie biology teacher Jean Tushie was presented with the NSTA Distinguished Teaching Award at the NSTA National Conference in Los Angeles, CA at the Annual Awards Gala, held on Friday, March 31st. Jean has been a major contributor to NSTA and MnSTA for many years as former NSTA District IX Director, MnSTA President, MnSTA Conference Coordinator, and MnSTA Biology Discipline Representative. Congratulations to Jean for this very well deserved award.

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## **National March for Science April 22, 2017, Earth Day**

Information about the Washington DC march may be found <https://www.marchforscience.com/> This site includes a marches tab (see satellite marches) which shows scheduled marches in all 50 states with some information about them. Nine are listed for Minnesota so far <http://www.marchforsciencemn.com/> . Educational organizations that have endorsed the national march include: National Center for Science Education, National Earth Science Teachers, Association for Science Teacher Education and the National Science Teachers Association.

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## **Upcoming Scholarships**

### **MHTA Scholarships**

MHTA is accepting applications until April 1, 2017 for the Minnesota High Tech Association Foundation (MHTF) Scholarship. The scholarships are for Minnesota

undergraduate students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. These awards range from \$2,500 to \$5,000 awards and can include internship opportunities at MHTA member companies. MHTF supports diversity in this application and award process. MHTA has Named Scholarships in specific areas supported by our generous sponsors. They expect to provide scholarships again this year in Computer Science, STEM Education, Data Science, Women in STEM, Underrepresented Populations in STEM and Women in Computer Science. Information is at <http://www.mhta.org/educate/stem-scholarships/>.

## Engineering Education Course Scholarships

The Center for Engineering Education at the University of St. Thomas has summer graduate course scholarships for qualified students. These scholarships cover all but \$200 of tuition. Courses offered this summer include "Manufacturing Engineering in the Classroom" which provides educators with a practical understanding of principles and processes of how things are made. "Digital Electronics and Computing Systems" explores the fundamental principles that have enabled the "digital computing revolution". Course projects include use of an Arduino microprocessor system. And "Engineering in the P-12 Classroom" which guides participants through a comprehensive understanding of PK-12 STEM curriculum, including emerging STEM practices and integration of real world engineering. More information at <http://www.stthomas.edu/cee/courses>

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## Upcoming STEM Conferences

### MCTM Spring Conference

**April 28-29, 2017**

DECC Convention Center, Duluth, MN

<http://mctm.org/springconf.php>

### Summer Institute for Climate Change Education

**June 26-28, 2017**

Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy

University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment, St. Paul, MN

<https://www.climategen.org/>

Join a network of teachers from across the country dedicated to bringing science, critical thinking, and problem solving about climate change into the classroom.

Registration: \$150 (includes daily breakfast, lunch, and curriculum)

Field Trip Opportunity to Cedar Creek: \$35

22 Clock Hours | 2 Graduate Credits optional (fee)

Lodging Available (\$48/night single, double/shared \$36)

### MTEEA

Sept. 29th & 30th, 2017

<http://www.mteea.net/index.php>

### MnSTA

November 10-11, 2017

St. Cloud, MN

[http://www.mnsta.org/2017\\_Conference.html](http://www.mnsta.org/2017_Conference.html)

Minnesota Coding in the Classroom Summit: Take a Byte, Create, Collaborate, and Innovate, May 16 U of Minnesota <http://tinyurl.com/jmehnp>

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## MN Zoo Professional Development

Zooms Institute August 7-9; Zooms 2.0 August 10;

ZOOMS Design Challenge.

More information at <http://mnzoo.org/STEM>

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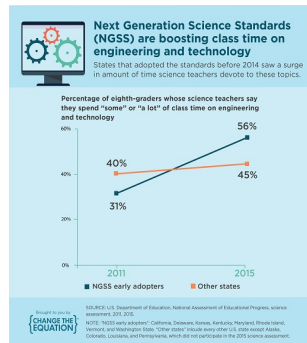
## National STEM News

### Women in STEM Applaud Hopper Naming Decision

(Yale Daily News) <https://goo.gl/t5Xbn0>

In the wake of the University's decision to rename Calhoun College, female STEM students and faculty have lauded the choice to honor mathematician and computer science pioneer Grace Hopper GRD '34. However, many point out that celebrating Hopper's legacy is only a small step toward tackling a larger issue at Yale: the

underrepresentation of women in STEM. Hopper, a United States Navy rear admiral who obtained both a master's degree and Ph.D. in mathematics from Yale, is widely recognized for her pivotal role in advancing the field of computer science. At Yale, many faculty and students said they regard Hopper as not only an expert in her field, but also a crucial role model for women in STEM.



## New Data: New Science Standards are Boosting Engineering in Schools

Change the Equation <https://goo.gl/BxzPFh>

Let's usher in this year's National Engineers Week with some good news. We've crunched some numbers, and it looks like efforts to make engineering part of the K-12 curriculum are beginning to pay off. Why? Our guess is that the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are succeeding in their aim to integrate engineering and technology into science classrooms.

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