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Winter 2019 Newsletter

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Letter from the Executive Director

Being engaged in STEM education always means looking forward, to student's futures, to technological innovations, to opportunities to learn, sharpen skills, and expand our professional networks. After the recent weather in Minnesota it may be comforting to look forward to opportunities when the temperature will be far warmer.

On June 12 SciMathMN is pairing with [The Works Museum](#), to present a conference about Transcending Boundaries: Connecting School, Career, and Community Through STEM at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center. This conference will explore Transcending boundaries between organizations through partnerships, Transcending boundaries between learning landscapes through partnerships, and Transcending boundaries between disciplines in STEM education. This conference will be filled with challenging and inspiring opportunities in keynote presentations, breakout sessions, and opportunities to network. Look for more information soon via the @MNSTEMnetwork twitter.

STEM Day at the State Fair! Yes, the best day of the summer is coming back to kick off the Great Minnesota Get Together on opening day, Thursday August 22, 2019. If you want to be a part of the state's best celebration of all things STEM stay tuned here. The planning group will begin accepting applications for exhibitors soon.

Computer Science for All-Minnesota is seeking to increase the number and diversity of K-16 students with access to computer science education. Currently few Minnesota students have access to computer science opportunities. Those opportunities are not available equitably across the state either. Computer Science for All-Minnesota is working to develop the public policy infrastructure needed to open up more opportunities. The Computer Science for All-Minnesota steering committee will be working with Code Savvy at the [MNCodes Summit](#) on May 16, 2019. See the Summit website and @CSforAllMN for more information.

Such rich opportunities to look forward to and participate in!

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Revised Minnesota Science Standards

The Science Standards is moving forward on a second draft of its work. The first draft, released in November 2018, received a record number of comments as a part of the public engagement process.

The committee is reviewing the public comments and making revisions in preparation for a second draft which will be published February 14. That draft will be available for comment until Feb. 28. Minnesota Department of Education encourages interested parties to watch for information about feedback meetings and the online survey on the [MDE Science page](#). The final draft will be published in May along with the timeline for implementation of the new standards.

Legislative Update



The 2019 legislative session started in January with new Governor Tim Walz and a new DFL house majority. The Senate remained in control of the GOP. With only a month into session all folks at the capitol are still taking their time. Committees only recently started hearing bills on various topics this last week so there is little notable change with regard to policies surrounding Science and Math.

The Senate did hold an informational hearing about a new 6 year public school model focused on STEM fields and Career and Technical Education. In a P-TECH school, students earn a high school diploma, an industry-recognized associate degree, and gain relevant work experience in a growing field.

Governor Walz named his new Commissioner of Education, Mary Catherin Ricker last year and they are both working to put together the Governor's Education priorities for this session. His Budget is due February 19th but the language and more policy details will probably come even later than that.

Bills are still being introduced and SciMathMN will keep you notified of any major bills affecting the STEM teachers and Curriculum in Minnesota.

Annual STEM Conference



Transcending Boundaries: Connecting School, Career, and Community Through STEM

A joint conference convened by SciMathMN and The Works Museum



Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at the University of Minnesota, Continuing Education and Conference Center

Join Minnesota's educators, employers, policy makers, and community members to examine the role of STEM education in providing inclusive environments, adequate resources and career-connected learning that prepares the next generation for the future.

In this conference, we will explore:

- **Transcending boundaries between organizations** by creating partnerships that enrich Minnesota's STEM learning ecosystem.
- **Transcending boundaries between learning landscapes** by connecting in, out and after school; formal and informal settings; and educational and workplace environments.
- **Transcending boundaries between disciplines** by engaging youth in authentic, human-centered learning that blends knowledge and practices from STEM subjects with arts, humanities and other areas and ensures STEM learning is accessible and relevant for all.

Stay tuned for more information coming soon!

Upcoming Events

Cognitively Guided Instruction National Biennial Conference will be held June 24-26, 2019 at the Doubletree Hotel in St. Louis Park. This conference will engage with speakers offering insights into various facets of children's mathematical thinking. Develop and extend your understanding of CGI, learn about the latest research advances, and share the impact CGI has on mathematics learning in PreK-6 classrooms. Registration is now open: www.cgiconference.com.

Green Schools Conference & Expo "Advancing sustainable schools for all". April 8 -9, River Center, St. Paul. This national conference offers engaging educational sessions, case studies, hands-on workshops and lectures from experts on developing and implementing green school. A great opportunity for green school advocates to collaborate and learn from one another. Check out the conference website: <http://greenschoolsconference.org/>

MNCodes Summit: Join us on May 16, 2019 for a day of hands-on sessions that explore ways to empower ALL learners by integrating computer science, coding, and computational

thinking into a variety of curricular areas for K-12. See [MNCodes Summit](#) and [@CSforAllMN](#) for more information.

Physics Force, the University of Minnesota's physics properties performance group will be performing for free (!) in May in Rochester. Schools with a high number of low income students may even qualify for a transportation subsidy to assist their attending the show. The Force assures us that this year's shows are better than ever, with live fire, lightning, a crushing barrel, and a performer falling from a tower. Physics Force is always a crowd pleaser at STEM Day at the State Fair. Sign your classes up for the free tickets! <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-physics-force-may-shows-tickets-48851323624>

STEM Resources

Discover Data Science: As data science becomes more important to our economy and in our society, teachers searching for resources can find a resource page for kids STEM activities and resources at Discover Data Science: tinyurl.com/yd3ttlws

Beyond Hidden Figures for Black History Month: Looking for resources to go beyond Hidden Figures for Black History Month? Check out [nine African American women pioneers in science](#) as a place to start.

Happy 150th birthday to the Periodic Table! UNESCO, the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization has proclaimed 2019 as the [International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements](#). This recognition is intended as a yearlong initiative to raise awareness of chemistry and its applications for sustainable development.

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center is offering free (!) day long STEM Experiential Workshops for middle and high school teachers looking to use the outdoors to teach their students the process of science. Several locations, several dates. tinyurl.com/y8s8qp7l

Reach for the Stars Catalog of Programs and Activities
<https://synergyexchange.org/Synergy/media/Reach/2018/reach-2018.pdf>



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