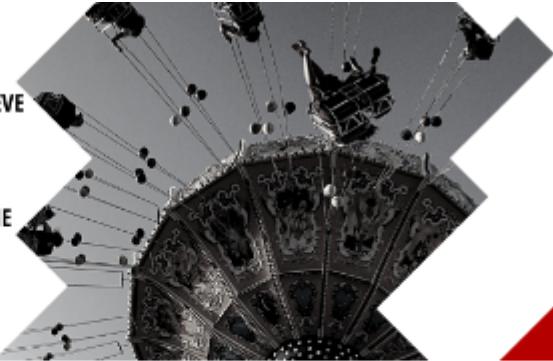


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"I DONATED BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN BUILDING MINNESOTA'S FUTURE STEM WORKFORCE. THESE ARE OUR PROBLEM SOLVERS AND LEADERS IN THE 21ST CENTURY."

BECKY SIEKMEIER



SCI MATH MN Newsletter

SPRING 2021

A MESSAGE FROM SCIMATHMN'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2019, STEM Day at the Fair provided **17,000** Minnesota families with hands-on interactive STEM learning.



SpringForwardMN
May 1 - 11, 2021

What a year it has been. Challenging? Oh yeah. For students, for parents, for schools, for businesses, for all of us. But I'm an optimist. Things are trending in a positive direction. Vaccine numbers are up. Case rates for Covid -19, hospitalizations, and thankfully deaths are all trending down. While concerns about Covid variants are real we can harbor some smiles behind our masks with spring bursting out in all its glory.

SciMathMN has taken this opportunity to reflect on where STEM education is going in Minnesota, where it needs to go, and what our role is in getting us there collectively.

I want to invite you to participate in a listening session exploring how STEM education stakeholders throughout Minnesota can work together to create an active STEM network focusing on these goals, and how SciMathMN can bring value to this work by acting as an advocate, convener, and resource. See more below.

Much of my optimism is of course about STEM Day at the Fair. We missed last year- missed you, missed our sponsors and partners, missed all 17,000 people who came through our exhibit area to celebrate all things STEM. If you've been, please come again, opening day of the State Fair is Thursday, August 26. If you work for a business that would like to be

involved or sponsor, please [reach out](#). If you are part of a STEM education organization looking to connect with Fairgoers see the short article below and complete this [application](#) by June 1.

Until then, take a few minutes to get outside and enjoy spring. All STEM begins with nature.

- Jim Davnie, SciMathMN Executive Director



SUPPORT STEM DAY AT THE FAIR

One of the ways SciMathMN promotes equitable STEM learning is by hosting STEM Day at the Fair. The State Fair didn't happen last year and as a result SciMathMN, like many nonprofits, experienced significant challenges. The good news is we survived and are ready to bring STEM Day at the Fair back!

SciMathMN is raising money through the GiveMN Spring *Forward* event to jumpstart the planning for a safe STEM Day at the Fair.

We think you care as much as we do about STEM education. Here's a link to the [giving page](#) where you too can support our efforts and learn more about other important work SciMathMN does to ensure equitable and accessible STEM learning in Minnesota. Please spread the word if there are others in your network that may also be interested.

By supporting a Minnesota cause from May 1-11, your generosity may be boosted each day as part of the [\\$50,000 bonus grant pool](#) sponsored by Bush Foundation and U.S. Bank!

On behalf of the Minnesota nonprofits and schools you're helping spring forward, thank you for your generosity! Minnesota is stronger thanks to the millions of dollars so generously given by donors like you.

[Give Now](#)

Opening day of STEM Day at the Fair brings together Minnesota's youth and families to explore the wonders of STEM through **hands-on** learning, **interactive** experiences, and **connections** to local non profits, student groups, and businesses.



SpringForwardMN
May 1 - 11, 2021

For over a decade businesses, volunteers, schools, nonprofits, and **families** have joined us on the first day of the MN State Fair to **celebrate STEM learning**.



SpringForwardMN
May 1 - 11, 2021

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Heading into session the budget is the biggest "to do " on the legislature's plate. It is constitutionally required that the legislature passes a budget. The November forecast projected a deficit, but that turned into a surplus of over \$1 billion in February. The three sides are not too far apart in total spending, but there are major differences on how and where they spend the money. On E-12 Education the House increased spending for the next biennium by 6.9% and the Senate by 3.2%.

[View Differences in Education Bills](#)

YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED AT UPCOMING STEM LISTENING SESSIONS

**WE.
NEED.
YOU.**

Now more than ever we find schools, industries, communities, and regions are doing important work to support their STEM pipelines. This collective work around equity, education, workforce participation, and economic development is important to ensure success for our futures. SciMathMN believes that to make the most impact, we have to work together.

With this in mind, SciMathMN has recently engaged in a strategic process to update its mission and vision. And, as we move forward on enacting this mission and vision, it is of

critical importance to engage with STEM education stakeholders throughout the state and from a variety of sectors.

Thus, we invite you to join us for an important conversation about how SciMathMN can bring value and impact to this work by acting as an advocate, convener, resource, and partner for the efforts of STEM education stakeholders throughout Minnesota.

Register using the links below to help define the next chapter of our collective work and be a voice for your community and the state.

Tuesday, May 18th 1:00 pm | [Register Here](#)

Wednesday, May 19th 1:00 pm | [Register Here](#)

Tuesday, May 25th 10:00 am | [Register Here](#)

Thursday, May 27th 4:00 pm | [Register Here](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

05/14 [Future Ready CTE Community & Industry Partner Celebration](#)

05/15 [MNCodes Computer Science Ed Workshops](#)

05/18 [SciMathMN Listening Session](#)

05/19 [SciMathMN Listening Session](#)

05/26 [SciMathMN Listening Session](#)

05/27 [SciMathMN Listening Session](#)

05/26 [Self-Driving Car Lab for STEM Programs](#)

08/26 [STEM Day at the Minnesota State Fair](#)

