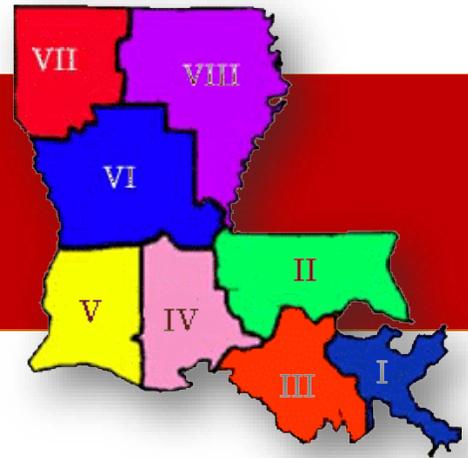


LSTA
NEWSLETTER

LASER



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LOUISIANA SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Louisiana science educators dedicated to the advancement of scientific literacy at all levels,
and encouraging lifelong learning.



October 2020 | Louisiana Science
Teachers Association

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L O U I S I A N A S C I E N C E T E A C H E R S A S S O C I A T I O N

Louisiana science educators dedicated to the advancement of scientific literacy at all levels,
and encouraging lifelong learning.

President's Message from Shauna LeBlanc



Hello LSTA family,

Welcome to the new school year. I hope you are all settling into the new year in spite of the delays, increased safety protocols, and challenges you may be facing. When you feel overwhelmed take a deep breath and remember that YOU make a difference. We know how difficult this year has been, but it helps to be reminded of how important you are and that for some children, you are the positive influence they need to succeed.

NSTA is happy to announce their virtual conference NSTA: Engage: Fall 2020. This virtual conference will take place Friday, November 13, 2020 through Sunday, November 15, 2020. LSTA is excited to partner with NSTA to offer our members the membership registration rate of \$97 for the conference by signing up for a free NSTA membership and then entering LSTA_ENGAGE into the promo code during checkout. Registration

includes live access to the conference program as well as to a post-event archive of all session content. Please [click here](#) for more information.

In addition, LSTA is awarding 40 professional development reimbursement grants of \$100 each to pay registration expenses for participating in the NSTA Engage: FALL20 virtual conference on November 13-15. Reimbursement will be made once documentation is submitted following the professional development. Awardees are expected to attend a minimum of six conference sessions and to submit a review of their three favorite sessions along with their registration receipt in order to receive reimbursement. Participants will be given access to recorded sessions. Applications must be submitted no later than 12 midnight on November 1, 2020. Click here for more details and to [access the application](#).

The QSM grant application is open. Grants of up to \$1000 for approved materials and equipment will be awarded on a competitive basis to individual Louisiana public school teachers to use in providing standards-based classroom instruction. Applicants must show that their proposals will enhance the quality of instruction for regular education students who are enrolled in mathematics, science, or STEM classes. Click here for more details and to [access the application](#). The deadline to apply is Monday, November 30, 2020 at 11:59 pm. Please consider submitting your application.

In closing, I would encourage you to review all of the educational resources provided in the LASER. We hope you find something that will help you. Additional information can be found on the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) website as they provide more information in the upcoming weeks. Don't forget to check our Facebook page for lots of innovative ideas, science news, and latest science education information. <https://www.facebook.com/lstascience/>

I hope you have a wonderful Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Dr. Shauna LeBlanc

Complimentary LSTA Membership

LSTA understands how difficult these times are for science educators. We want to show that we are with you by doing our part to provide information about as many resources and opportunities that will help to alleviate some of the strain you may be feeling. Please click the link below to fill out an online form to register for your complimentary membership to LSTA (*effective now until February 28, 2021).

[LSTA Complimentary Membership Form](#)

NSTA is offering help to you during this COVID-19 struggle

To support all educators during this difficult time, NSTA is offering a free 30-day membership, providing you with access to more than 12,000 digital professional learning resources and tools. Simply [create an account here](#) and start developing your own personalized digital learning experience.

QSM Grant Submissions Now Being Accepted

Looking for a way to purchase instructional materials for your math, science, or STEM class? Then consider applying for a Quality Science & Mathematics (QSM) grant! The QSM Grant Program was established for the purpose of providing public school teachers with non-consumable instructional materials and equipment to regular classroom teachers of mathematics, science, and STEM courses.

Grants of up to \$1000 for approved materials and equipment will be awarded on a competitive basis to individual Louisiana public school teachers to use in providing standards-based classroom instruction. Applicants must show that their proposals will enhance the quality of instruction for regular education students who are enrolled in mathematics, science, or STEM classes.

Grant proposals are due by midnight on November 30, 2020. To apply directly, please go to https://my.reviewr.com/s1/site/QSMGrantProgram_2020.

For more information about the program and to apply, please visit lsu.edu/qsm or email qsminfo@lsu.edu.

Quick Notes:

- Full-time classroom teachers assigned to teach science, mathematics, or STEM courses in a K-12 public school regular education programs are eligible
 - The maximum award granted by QSM is \$1,000
 - Consumable supplies and fixed asset items such as furniture and large appliances will not be funded
 - Charter schools are public schools
 - Requested materials must be for student use during classroom instruction
 - Plagiarism of materials from other proposals, website presentations, and other resources will result in automatic disqualification
-



Regional News

✦ Region I ✦

The 4th Annual NOLA Back 2 School Fest presented by Shell was held on Saturday, August 1 in partnership with GNO STEM and Xavier University of Louisiana. Approximately 2,000 students in grades K – 12 from throughout the Greater New Orleans community received free backpacks filled with essential school supplies including notebooks, pencils, pocket folders, rulers, glue sticks and more!

“It is important for our children to start the new school year with the school supplies they need from day one.” said Viet Van, General Manager, Supply Chain for Shell Global Deepwater. “If preparation is a key to success, think of the difference we can make for students who come to class with the necessary tools they need to learn. Simply having basic supplies like a pencil and notebook can have a positive impact on a child’s success,” he added.



Please submit news for Region 1 to **Casey McMann** at cmcmann.research@gmail.com.

✦ Region II ✦

For over 20 years, **Louisiana Sea Grant** has hosted the **Ocean Commotion** event in the fall on the LSU Campus. This is one-day event where exhibitors from all over the state come in and share information, experiments, lesson ideas and activities regarding our state’s coastal habitats. This year due to the pandemic the in-person event has been cancelled; however, many of the exhibitors have agreed to provide videos and lessons for a virtual Ocean Commotion. **Ocean Commotion 2020** will be virtual and begins on Monday, Oct. 12, 2020. Registration is now open for teachers at http://lsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3achNwTJke0BapD. For more information about Ocean Commotion visit <http://www.laseagrant.org/education/projects/ocean-commotion/teachers/>.

The **State Science Olympiad** will be held on Saturday, April 17th. More details will be released in the upcoming months.

The student body and faculty at **Iberville STEM Academy** participate in weekly virtual school assemblies where they have an opportunity to learn from a variety of guest speakers such as **Vanessa Begat**, Instructor from the Louisiana State University College of Engineering, and **Dr. Steve Caparotta**, WAFB Meteorologist. Ms. Begat spoke to students in grades 6-12 about engineering majors that L.S.U. offers, career opportunities, and the educational path toward obtaining an engineering degree. Dr. Caparotta presented information on careers in meteorology, current trends in tropical storm/ hurricane tracking, and following your heart when making a career choice. Each week’s virtual school assembly will highlight a different topic in STEM.

Louisiana Science Teachers Association Newsletter (www.lsta.info)



The **Louisiana Art and Science Museum's** free-access digital platform for STEAM programs, virtual-lasm.org, has been recently updated with new programs, a new navigation system, and a new look. Organized by grade level and including engaging programs such as Learn at **LASM**, The Traveling Trunk Show, hands-on activities, Lore of the Constellations, We Need Our Space, and more, virtual-lasm.org has entertaining, educational, and enriching content for students and teachers to enjoy at any time. LASM's virtual experiences are sponsored by Healthy Blue Louisiana, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana, AT&T, and Louisiana Lottery Corporation.

Please submit news for Region 2 to **Dr. Bianca Deliberto** at bianca.deliberto@zacharyschools.org.

✦ **Region III** ✦

Tammy Brouillette of Terrebonne Parish and **Ann Robichaux** of Vandebilt Catholic High School participated in a week long virtual professional development provided by ASM .The teachers did a deep dive into the complexity of how many materials are used to make up everyday objects and worked in groups and individually on life cycles of products.

Wendy Delgado of Houma Christian School started off the 2020-2021 school year with a "Penny Boat Lab " with her 7th grade students. The students constructed boats made of aluminum foil and filled the boats with pennies to explore independent and dependent variables and engineering.



Please submit news for Region 3 to **Wendy Delgado** at wendy_delgado@houmachristianschool.com.

✦ **Region IV** ✦

Please submit news for Region 4 to **Annis Barras** at kabarras@iberia.k12.la.us.

✦ **Region V** ✦

Calcasieu Parish students have begun learning science online from Odysseyware until district schools are open for face-to-face instruction due to Hurricane Laura.

Please submit news for Region 5 to **Vincent Caldwell** at vincent.cadwell@cpsb.org.

Louisiana Science Teachers Association Newsletter (www.lsta.info)

✦ Region VI ✦



Natural Inquirer

Natural Inquirer is a free science education journal written for middle through high school age students. In 1998, Natural Inquirer was created so that scientists could share their research with students. Each article follows the same format as a scientific journal article by including an Introduction, Methods, Findings, and Discussion section. Additionally, each article has a Meet the Scientist section, Thinking About Science section, Thinking About the Environment section, and a FACTivity. The FACTivity is a hands-on activity that reinforces a concept from the article. All articles are correlated to National Education Standards. The Natural Inquirer program produces a variety of science education materials for PreK through grade 12. Natural Inquirer products are produced by the USDA Forest Service, the Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Association (CFAIA), and other cooperators and partners.

(<http://www.naturalinquirer.org/>)



Click on the Project WILD activity below to access resources related to that activity, including In Step with STEM, WILD Work, student pages, and additional resources.

<https://www.fishwildlife.org/projectwild/project-wild-resources>

LOUISIANA

Wade Dubea
Project WILD Coordinator
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
5825 Florida Blvd., Suite 6000
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Tel: (225) 925-4500
wdubea@ldaf.state.la.us

Please submit news for Region 6 to **Heather Warner** at heather.warner@rpsb.us.

✦ Region VII ✦

Please submit news for Region 7 to **Stefani Farris** at Shfarris@caddoschools.org.

✦ Region VIII ✦



Cathi Cox-Boniol (Lincoln Parish, Retired) and **Diane Madden** (Louisiana Tech University SciTEC) participated in International Technology and Engineering Teachers (ITEEA) Engineering by Design Consortium Directors Meeting before engaging in the Fall Leadership Forum, both virtual events.



Cathi and **Missy Wooley** (Lincoln Parish Schools STEM Center) have been selected to represent LSTA and present at the NSTA Engage Fall20 Virtual Conference and collaborated to flip their face-to-face creativity session into an engaging virtual experience. In addition, both have been working to flip all learning experiences for the STEM Center into virtual experiences so that students in face-to-face learning on school campuses as well as those learning at home will have equitable integrated STEM experiences until the STEM Center is able to welcome them back following the pandemic protocols. Missy also attended Science Content Leader training for Lincoln Parish.

Please submit news for Region 8 to **Garrah Leshe** at leshe@opsb.net.

Professional Development Opportunities and Resources

NSTA: Engage: Fall 2020

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LSTA Awards Professional Development Grants

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Louisiana Science Leaders Corner

Are you a district science supervisor, science content specialist, science master teacher, Teacher Leader or science coach? If so consider becoming a member of LASL, the affiliate of the National Science Education Leaders Association (NSELA).

With School Plans in Flux, Here Are 3 Leadership Strategies to Prioritize—and 2 to Avoid

After spending the last six months helping school leaders around the country design and implement their reopening plans, here are three leadership strategies to prioritize—and two to try to avoid—in order to provide teachers, students and caregivers a smoother experience to start the school year. https://www.edsurge.com/news/2020-09-22-with-school-plans-in-flux-here-are-3-leadership-strategies-to-prioritize-and-2-to-avoid?MessageRunDetailID=3420046596&PostID=19877838&utm_medium=email&utm_source=rasa_io

STEM Mentoring Toolkit

A marvelous website has been developed and was recently made available to the science education community. If you are a district science supervisor, science content specialist, science master teacher, Teacher Leader or science coach you will want to become familiar with and bookmark <https://sites.google.com/view/stem-mentoring-tool-kit/home>

“Teaching remains one of the most dynamic and respected professions in modern society. There are many stakeholders that rightly have a voice in schools, but none are more important than the daily professionals that teach its students. The primary audience of this toolkit includes veteran teachers who serve as mentor teachers. Content coaches, curriculum directors, and other administrators will also find it useful as they work with new teachers in their communities. The toolkit is designed to 1) help mentor teachers evaluate their practice and 2) use the kit in collaboration with new teachers. The authors believe mentor teachers are the experienced and valued leaders in their communities and provide the authentic voice needed to lead new teachers transitioning into the profession.

Developing mentors is arguably one of the most important investments a school district can make. Outstanding mentors become the face of the district and the profession for new teachers. In the accompanying model, mentors are also full-time classroom teachers. These peer mentors are teaching just like the new teachers (mentees) and able to relate to them in a way that administrative mentors cannot.”

LASM Upcoming Events**Teachers Receive Free Admission to LASM Every Saturday in October**

Real heroes don't wear capes. They teach! As a thank you for all of the extra work you have been doing to educate our next generation of artists and scientists at this time, we hope you enjoy free admission to LASM on Saturdays in October: October 3, October 10, October 17, October 24, October 31! Remember to bring your school-issued ID. [Click here](#) for additional guest admission prices.

Join LASM & NASA for a LIVE Virtual Space Launch Presentation!

LASM and NASA are presenting a LIVE Virtual Space Launch Presentation on **October 20, 2020 at 11 AM!** Students will have the opportunity to ask Ryan Roberts, NASA B-2 Test Director, questions at the end of his presentation on the SLS Rocket, the Green Run Test, and the Artemis Program. This virtual program, which is designed for 4th-8th grade students and for all ages, will stream live on LASM's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). A recording will be available on YouTube after the livestream.

Submit your and your students' questions for Ryan Roberts to lasm@lasm.org or message us on social media by October 18 for your chance to have your questions answered LIVE!

STEM activities and videos from hands2mind

The teach@home website <https://www.hand2mindathome.com/> has STEM activities and daily videos by Brooke Brown
Free lessons: <https://www.hand2mind.com/brands/learning-at-home> &
videos: <https://www.hand2mind.com/resources/videos>

**Virtual Manipulatives 30 Day free download: <https://www.brainingcamp.com/hand2mind/>

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**Math Fluency webinar on April 14th. Click the link to

register: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2020682874667298572>

NSTA October E Blast

Check out the [October E Blast #1](#) and [October E Blast #2](#) for science news, awards, and grant opportunities.

Biology Olympiad

Biology Olympiad Prep/with BSC

IBO
USABO
BBO
INBO
MCAT
NEET
AP Bio

Test Questions · Live Lectures · Q&A

Weekly Livestream from October 1st Week to February 1st Week!
(Date and time will be announced based on signup preference)

Link to SIGN UP!

BSC

The graphic features a dark blue background with a light green horizontal band. The text is in white and light green. At the bottom, there are stylized white and green shapes representing people and a logo with the letters B, S, and C in a square.



Land Loss Lookout Project

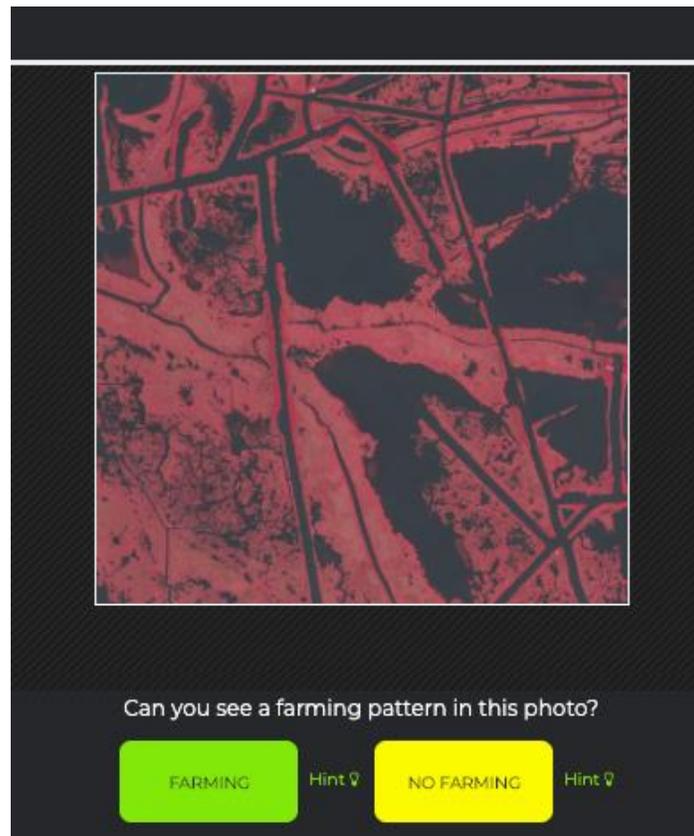
Hello friends! My name is Naomi, and I am on the Science Team staff at [Healthy Gulf](#). I want to tell you about an exciting new website that illustrates coastal land loss in Louisiana, and helps us to understand this urgent issue. The website gives users a chance to interact with photographs of coastal lands, and we all benefit by learning about the coast. I hope you will join us in looking out for our coast.

Our new website is "[Land Loss Lookout](#)", developed in partnership by Healthy Gulf and Cartoscope. It's a citizen science project, so everyone's work contributes to our in-depth understanding of the issue. We made Land Loss Lookout to give regular folks without access to boats or planes the opportunity to look over patterns of wetland loss in Louisiana's Gulf Coast.

Coastal Louisiana is losing land rapidly. There are several reasons for this. Climate change and sea-level rise are already drowning certain areas, and this will be the primary cause of marsh loss into 2067.

In other areas, drilling and producing oil and gas has often damaged the land. Canals and trenches have been dug and cut, often disrupting the natural flow or drainage of water. Once the water does not flow freely, areas that were once land begin to drown from these impoundments.

In Land Loss Lookout, observers will learn about these and some of the other causes of coastal land loss, by looking at aerial infrared photographs. By using Land Loss Lookout, not only will observers gain valuable knowledge about wetlands and coastal land loss, but they'll get to see some cool places in the Gulf, from a bird's eye view!



You can check out the project at <http://cartosco.pe/landloss>.

STANYS supported White Paper on EFFECTIVE SCIENCE TEACHING: ADDRESSING COVID-19 CHALLENGES

<http://click.skem1.com/click/acvr-2b2o6v-r5cq6d-7vsavmb9/>

ITEEA Elementary STEM Council Design Challenge: Now Open!

[Click here for more information](#)

Honor a Student Leader in Your Community



The Billy Michal Student Leadership Award Now Open For Nominations

[**LEARN MORE**](#)

The Billy Michal Student Leadership Award is given annually to one student from each state and the District of Columbia who demonstrates the American Spirit in his or her community.

Nominees should have a strong record of volunteerism, school and/or community activism, or implementing creative solutions to recognized problems.

Selected awardees will engage in a virtual leadership program during the week of June 7–11, as well as participate in the Museum's American Spirit Awards Luncheon and Leadership Forum on June 18, 2021.

[Nominate a student today!](#)



National Geographic Launches COVID-19 Remote Learning Emergency Fund for Educators

Fund supports teachers designing innovative resources and methods during the pandemic

[October 6, 2020] WASHINGTON, D.C. – Educators are among the many on the frontlines of COVID-19. During a time of immense disruption, they are adapting their teaching methods, testing new skills, and discovering new solutions to advance learning in profoundly new ways. To support these efforts, the National Geographic Society is launching a fund for K-12 educators who are designing instructional resources to help other educators teach in remote- and hybrid-learning environments.

The fund aims to support at least 50 teaching professionals, including formal and informal classroom educators, with grants ranging from US\$1,000–8,000. Applicants can apply individually, in collaboration with other educators, or with National Geographic Explorers. Once developed, the resources will be freely available on the National Geographic Society [education website](#) and within the National Geographic education communities on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), for use across different schools and communities, to support as many educators and students as possible.

“The role of teachers has never been more important as they work tirelessly to engage and inspire their students in a socially distant world,” said National Geographic Society Chief Education Officer Vicki Phillips. “Our goal is to equip educators with the resources and support they need to continue creating, innovating and pioneering new ways of teaching so their peers and their students can continue growing.”

The fund places particular emphasis on remote- and hybrid-learning resources, methodologies, and practices that use the power of science, social studies and geography to help students understand the significance of current and complex challenges such as a global pandemic.

Other priorities include, but are not limited to, resources that:

- Adapt one of National Geographic’s science or social studies units for elementary, middle, or high school students (refer to our [Resource Library](#) for reference) to address each group’s curricular needs and for use in a hybrid-learning environment; and develop a complementary teacher’s guide.
- Design innovative ways to bring the world to students and help them bridge their personal experiences to a more global perspective on critical issues (such as sustainability, climate, social or environmental justice, and racial justice).
- Draw on the concepts and pedagogy in the National Geographic [Learning Framework](#) or the National Geographic [Geo-Inquiry Process](#) to design instructional resources or projects that meet the goals of this opportunity.

To see all application guidelines, educators are encouraged to apply at NatGeoEd.org/covidgrants. All submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis and applications may be submitted until further notice.

Priority will be given to teachers working in communities that have been particularly hard hit by the pandemic, and who have not previously received National Geographic funding. We strive to identify, support and elevate a range of educator voices, perspectives and communities.

To provide additional guidance during the application process, the Society is offering weekly virtual “Design Labs” for educators to talk directly with their peers and Society staff for ideation, inspiration and technical support. Educators can also ask questions by visiting @NatGeoEducation on [Twitter](#). To see the full list of support options for teachers, visit NatGeoEd.org/covidgrants.

The emergency fund for educators is part of National Geographic’s ongoing effort to support its global community of scientists, explorers, educators and storytellers during these challenging times. In March, the National Geographic Society announced the [COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Journalists](#) to support local coverage of the pandemic and its impact on communities. The announcement ultimately prompted more than 2,300 applications, resulting in over 150 grant recipients, representing over 50 countries.

Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors

The ongoing historic wildfires across the West, the extremely active hurricane season, and the devastating Midwest derecho this summer, are constant reminders that no location is immune from extreme weather, water, and climate events. Our hearts are with the communities tirelessly working to recover and regain a sense of normalcy.

As we come to the end of [National Preparedness Month](#) and enter the final season of 2020, consider the following opportunities for your ambassador organization to help make communities across the country better prepared. We still have two more months of hurricane season. Fires are still active. Severe weather, including tornadoes and other high wind events, typically ramps back up in October and November as warm and cold air masses clash. Being "Weather-Ready" is a 365-day/year activity.

(1) Fall Weather Safety Campaign Continues

<https://www.weather.gov/wrn/fall-safety>

This season's theme is "Small Decisions Can Have a Big Impact"

Sometimes the difference between safety and tragedy is a small decision at the most critical time--delaying travel, slowing down, or knowing where your safe place is.

(2) Take advantage of our WRN infographics...include them on social media posts, emails to employees, or even print out for displays.

Here is one of our favorites to post over social media. Trees, when exposed to high winds and/or heavy rains, can create dangerous situations. Taking action to minimize the risk can save lives.



(3) Get to know your local Weather Forecast Office and River Forecast Center

- Feedback on local weather safety activities/content
- Success stories and best practices from the recent high-impact events
- Any questions about products/services

<https://www.weather.gov/stormready/contact>

<https://water.weather.gov/ahps/rfc/rfc.php>

(4) Help promote Citizen Science opportunities.

https://www.weather.gov/media/wrn/citizen_science_page.pdf

Science PD Opportunities for Educators

Place-Based Education 2.0: NGSS and Place-based Principles

Join a community of K-12 teachers this year and dive into the ways place-based education and the Next Generation Science Standards support one another. While we won't be hiking together to explore these ideas as we were in this 2018 picture, we'll still be learning together. You'll experience

these overlaps as a learner, consider them as a teacher, and apply them as a collaborator with other workshop participants from around the state and country. Check here

(<https://drive.google.com/.../1q9Zpi.../view>) for more information about the workshop, hosted by University of Wyoming and Teton Science Schools, and click here to register (<https://tetonscience.asapconnected.com/...>). We hope to see you and your colleagues virtually later this fall!



Academic Affairs
Science Math
Teaching Center



VIRTUAL SCIENCE WORKSHOP (preK-12 educators)

December 8th, 10th, & 17th (4:30-6:30MT) → 3-Dimensional Science in a Virtual Setting



Academic Affairs
Science Math
Teaching Center

Are you working to shift your 3D science instruction online? Do you want some ideas for how you can support students in 3D science thinking at home? The Science and Mathematics Teaching Center at the University of Wyoming invites preK-12 teachers, leaders, coaches, instructional facilitators, and administrators to participate in virtual professional learning workshops focused on 3-Dimensional science learning in virtual settings.

Participants will gain a deeper understanding of instructional practices aligned to the research on science teaching and learning and how that instruction can be used in virtual settings.

Registration is \$75 (discount available when you come with colleagues). PTSE and graduate credit available.

Check out this [flyer](#) for more information and [register here](#).

VIRTUAL SCIENCE WORKSHOP (6-12 educators)

November 12th, 19th, & December 3rd (4:30-6:30MT) → Adapting to 3D, Virtual Science Learning: Sequencing Labs and At-home Lab Considerations



Academic Affairs
Science Math
Teaching Center

Are you working to shift your 3D science instruction online? Do you want some ideas for how you can support students in 3D science thinking at home? The Science and Mathematics Teaching Center at the University of Wyoming invites preK-12 teachers, leaders, coaches, instructional facilitators, and administrators to participate in a virtual professional learning workshop focused on sequencing and creating 3D, at-home lab experiences for your students.

Participants will gain a deeper understanding of instructional practices aligned to the research on

Louisiana Science Teachers Association Newsletter (www.lsta.info)

science teaching and learning and how that instruction can be used in virtual settings.

Registration is \$75 (discount available when you come with colleagues). PTSB and graduate credit available.

Check out this [flyer](#) for more information and [register here](#).

ITEEA March 2021 Conference to be 100% Virtual

After extensive consideration and deliberation, including feedback from a variety of conference stakeholders, ITEEA has determined that its 2021 conference will take place in a 100% virtual format.

The conference dates remain unchanged, March 24-27, 2021, but some daily scheduling may be altered to better accommodate virtual attendees and presenters.

Concerns regarding hosting a Face-to-Face or hybrid conference in March of 2021 became clear as a result of ITEEA's recent survey, as well as through direct communication from leaders in the field from around the world. Only a fraction of survey respondents felt confident about the ability to travel and attend an in-person conference. Meanwhile, the vast majority expressed interest in attending virtually due to the level of certainty and predictability that a virtual conference provides during the ongoing pandemic.

Large numbers of ITEEA members are educators with real and specific concerns about attending in person, including travel safety, travel restrictions, funding limitations, health risks, and the requirement to quarantine for two weeks before returning to their classrooms.

Feedback from individuals who have had the opportunity to participate in virtual conferences over the past few months has been overwhelmingly positive. ITEEA will continue working to provide a meaningful conference experience for our attendees and feel confident that the virtual format offers a comfort level for those who may not have been willing or able to attend in person.

ITEEA President, Dr. Philip Reed, shared, "The feedback overwhelmingly guided us to move the conference to a virtual format for 2021. This change will 'meet educators where they are' by showcasing excellence in virtual technology and engineering education. This is an opportunity you don't want to miss!"

2021 Conference registration is expected to open in October and will offer reduced virtual rates. More information about programming and other conference-related news will be released as it becomes available.

BESE Tuition Program for Teachers

The LDOE STEM team is excited to announce the upcoming application window for the spring 2021 BESE Tuition Program for Teachers. The BESE Tuition Program for Teachers is a competitive program that funds tuition for one continuing education course for a certified Louisiana teacher at a Louisiana university. For full details, visit the LDOE's [Continuing Education page](#).

Applications for the spring 2021 semester will be available on the [Continuing Education web page](#) beginning October 30, and applications will be accepted through November 20. All interested teachers are encouraged to apply.

Remote Learning Solutions from Vernier

The team at Vernier has put together a variety of [remote learning resources](#) for teachers to use with students who are learning from home. I would appreciate if you could share these links with your networks.

- [Vernier Video Analysis](#) is a physics-focused tool where students can use their mobile devices to insert their own videos with recorded motion, mark points to track the object in motion, and set the scale of the video. This app brings physics and video analysis to all your students regardless of their location. A free trial is available that is good through June.
- [Pivot Interactives](#) is a video-based science learning environment. With over 200 interactive activities, the high-quality videos from Pivot Interactives give your students the opportunity to observe and study hard-to-replicate experiments and phenomena no matter where they are. A free 30-day trial and reduced subscription pricing are now available.
- [Analyze Experiment Data at Home with Graphical Analysis 4](#) To help ensure students continue to sharpen their critical-thinking skills and learn key scientific concepts during this precarious time, Vernier has put together over 80 free experiments with sample data files covering many subjects that you can distribute to your students at home. Though students won't be performing the experiments themselves, they can perform their own analysis of the sample data using our free Graphical Analysis™ 4 app and answer questions based on their results.

Introducing NSTA's Daily Do

Teachers and families across the country are facing a new reality of providing opportunities for students to do science through distance and home learning. The [Daily Do](#) is one of the ways NSTA is supporting teachers and families with this endeavor.

Each weekday, NSTA will share a sensemaking task teachers and families can use to engage their students in authentic, relevant science learning.

Check out the [NSTA Daily Do here](#). This week we will have resources for all ages, kicking off with separate activities for elementary and secondary students where they are using and developing a model of social distancing to understand how it slows the spread of the coronavirus.

NSTA Free Membership and Resources

- Free NSTA membership, simply [create an account here](#) and start developing your own personalized digital learning experience.
- Learning Center Collection of [online resources](#)
- Free and engaging NSTA [Interactive eBooks+](#)
- Weekly [web seminars](#) on a host of topics, including the upcoming March 25 web seminar [Science Update: COVID-19: Don't Panic But Know the Science](#).
- NSTA Press [free book chapters](#) with lesson plans, curriculum ideas, and so much more.
- Free resources from our vendors [here](#)

NSTA's New #LearningTogether Initiative

Remote education has quickly become the reality for millions of people nationwide. As we navigate this uncharted territory together, we are asking you—the greater education community—to join our #LearningTogether initiative.

To participate: Visit the [#LearningTogether](#) web page ; [sign in](#) or [create](#) a free Learning Center account; and add your ideas, tips, and strategies for teaching K–12 students online to the simple form. Check out what others are doing, view their profiles, and send messages of reassurance, praise, and support. For further discussion on how to implement the resources for teaching online, visit the [Remote Teaching Forum](#).

NSTA: Learning Science at Home With Online Resources #COVID19

As students continue their science instruction online and at home, the [Lab Out Loud podcast](#) shares some free resources from NSTA and beyond. Co-hosts Brian Bartel and Dale Basler also get a chance to talk to Fred Ende's kids—referred to as "6" and "9"—as they share their experiences in science education and connecting with people online.

New T4PA Center Website

The Title IV, Part A Technical Assistance Center (T4PA Center) operates on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education (ED), Office of Safe and Supportive Schools to provide State education agencies (SEAs) with dedicated support for implementing the Title IV, Part A (Title IV-A) Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) program. The T4PA Center provides SSAE State coordinators (SCs) assistance across the program's diverse content areas, namely, promoting a well-rounded education, improving the safety and health of students, and supporting the effective use of technology. In partnership with ED, the T4PA Center works with SCs to identify grant implementation needs, develop a tailored plan to address these needs, and broker support to build capacity at the state and local levels to help ensure Title IV-A programmatic success. Supports include the following:

- Identifying and creating resources and professional learning opportunities on priority areas;
- Operating a Help Desk for technical assistance inquiries from the field;
- Networking and coordinating with Federal and other organizations to leverage support to SEAs;
- Developing a national network of subject matter experts; and
- Operating a comprehensive Website, including a SC-dedicated Community of Practice.

The brand-new T4PA Center Website includes:

- A carousel of noteworthy news, easy-to-access menus of announcements of relevant resources and offerings, upcoming events, and spotlights on grant activities;
- A [resource library](#) with free, relevant and useful information;
- [SEA profiles](#) that give Title IV-A program information for each state, such as SC contact information, funding data, links to state-sponsored Title IV-A Websites, and more;
- A list of [Federal partners](#) from different agencies, programs, and offices that focus on Title IV-A program-related work;

Louisiana Science Teachers Association Newsletter (www.lsta.info)

- A deep dive via a [searchable statute](#) to learn more about Title IV-A; and
- A password-protected section dedicated to only SC use that includes a Community of Practice, calendar, and resource-sharing area.

Our Website also features an [online technical assistance request form](#) to submit requests for technical assistance - we are happy to help find needed information or resources, or connect with other partners in the field to augment efforts.

Please join us at <https://t4pacenter.ed.gov/> and learn how Title IV-A can help build student success nationwide!

Online resource listings

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NUKLZN7hGSu1Hzm70kfzBKs-lsSELaEMggS60Bi2O2l/htmlview?usp=sharing&fbclid=IwAR3CHaDMB6fALoalj5bj2nKkC_1WIQX7ydHaOKj--HaUok4gFzN82jDSM4&sle=true&pru=AAABcPIN7eQ*IKe6OINV7teP59e-1clpaA

Framework for Leading NGSS Implementation

An excellent resource for districts, is available at

<https://www.wested.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Framework-for-Leading-NGSS-Implementation.pdf>

Free NGSS-Designed Curriculum Available!

[SCALE Science Website is Live](#)

Assessment Literacy Modules

Here is a newly developed assessment literacy digital workbook that some may be interested in taking a look at...

<http://www.scillsspartners.org/scillss-resources/>

One needs to scroll about 3/4 the way down the page to find... **Digital Workbook on Educational Assessment Design and Evaluation: Creating and Evaluating Effective Educational Assessment

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