STEM Happens

**Project Lead The Way Training - escorting middle school teachers through the technology "gateway"**

Project Lead The Way - Gateway to Technology (PLTW-GTT) scale-up awardees attended an intensive two-week training this summer. The professional development prepared these middle school teachers to implement the program in their classrooms this fall.

Educators discussed best practices and experienced the design challenges first hand. In the GTT design and modeling unit, students create and assemble virtual playgrounds using industry standard 3D modeling software.

The automation and robotics unit provides students opportunities to design, build, and program robots to solve a problem.

In the GTT program, students explore STEM careers and practice problem solving, teamwork, and innovation that encourage student success in future STEM pursuits.

Educators practice building and programming robotics to solve a problem in PLTW GTT training.

Learn more about Project Lead The Way-Gateway to Technology engineering program [here](#).

**Drake University to host world-renowned astrophysicist and pop-culture advocate for scientific inquiry, Neil deGrasse Tyson**

Tuesday, October 29, 2013, 7 p.m., Drake University Knapp Center. Free and open to the public, no ticket required.

Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson

*Image of Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson*

**In This Issue**

- Project Lead The Way training
- Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson to speak at Drake University
- Redesigned STEM Learning Environment Applications Due August 30
- Upcoming Events
  - Midwest Environmental Education Conference
  - Call for proposals: IT Program for Iowa Schools
- Submit an Event
- YOU can get involved!

**The entire South Central Iowa Region has been awarded Defined STEM as a scale-up program.**

This online resource provides common core standards-aligned performance tasks, literacy tasks, and real-world video to enable students see the relevance of what they are learning.

Defined STEM is available to formal and non-formal educators in South Central Iowa. Contact Brad Furber (brad_furber@definedlearning.com) to obtain your unique login and password.
Drake University is hosting Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson this fall for the Martin Bucksbaum Distinguished Lecture Series.

Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson emerged as a media personality and pop-culture icon as the host of NOVA ScienceNOW. He has appeared on The Daily Show, The Colbert Report, and Big Bang Theory (as himself). Tyson engaged professional stand-up comedians to create StarTalk Radio, which targets an audience of people who never thought they could, or would, like science. His work in the media has made science accessible for a broad audience.

Dr. Tyson earned his B.S. in Physics from Harvard and his Ph.D. in astrophysics from Columbia. His professional research interests include exploding stars and dwarf galaxies. Former President George W. Bush appointed Dr. Tyson to serve on commissions to investigated the future of the U.S. aerospace industry and to make space exploration a part of the political agenda.

With his visit to Drake, Dr. Tyson joins the ranks of other distinguished Bucksbaum lecturers, including Dr. Jane Goodall, Dr. Maya Angelou, and Earvin "Magic" Johnson.

Don't miss this exciting event. For more information, visit http://www.drake.edu/bucksbaum/

Applications for Redesigned STEM Learning Environments are due August 30, 2013.

The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council has designated a matched portion of the state legislative funding to promote Redesigned STEM Learning Environments. The number of proposals accepted will depend upon available funds and proposal requests.

School districts may apply to receive up to $50,000.00 in funds which can be used to support furniture, technology and equipment costs associated with a redesigned learning environment, travel expenses for district teams or designees to visit one or more exemplary STEM school model(s), professional development for STEM teachers, or other related costs. School districts will be asked to match the Council's investment through local cost-share for the project proposals.

Community-based partnerships of businesses, higher education institutions and out-of-school organizations will be required of successful applicants. These community partnerships will serve as a mechanism to ensure STEM career and college readiness for all of Iowa's young people.

Businesses will be asked to partner with school districts to offer both financial support and other types of philanthropic outreach including internships, facilitated mentoring programs and off-site learning opportunities. Museums, libraries, science centers, youth agencies and clubs are the non-formal education entities which will play a vital role in supporting underrepresented students for STEM. Powerful partnerships

spread the word about your STEM Back-to-School EVENTS!
between school districts and higher education will also be a key ingredient in successful STEM school proposals.

Go to www.IowaSTEM.gov for more information and a link to the application.

Events

Don't miss these upcoming STEM events!

July 29-Aug 2 IMPACT Summer Institute cont., Cedar Falls
Aug 1 Robots 'n Girls, Ottumwa
Aug 7 Camp in a Can PD, Johnston
Aug 8 Hyperstream PD, West Des Moines
Sept 6 Defined STEM PD, Des Moines
Sept 20 STEM Teacher Educators' Conference, Des Moines
Sept 23 Carolina STEM PD, Johnston
Sept 24 Carolina STEM PD, Johnston
Sept 25 Carolina STEM Pd, Ottumwa
Sept 28-28 Midwest Environmental Ed. Conference, Coralville
Oct 23 ICTM-ISTS Fall Conference, Des Moines
Oct 29 Lecture by Neil deGrasse Tyson, Des Moines


The Iowa Conservation Education Coalition and Iowa Association of Naturalists invite you to attend the Midwest Environmental Education Conference, September 25-28, 2013 at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Coralville, Iowa. This regional gathering is the largest environmental education conference in the Midwest, hosting nearly 300 teachers, naturalists and others who specialize in: wastewater, environmental health, natural resources, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), watershed, energy, solid waste & recycling education and regulation.

Themed "Seasons of Plenty," the conference offers an abundance of educational opportunities including: two workshops, 10 field trips throughout
the Eastern Iowa Corridor, three award-winning keynote presenters, 64 sessions on a variety of environmental topics, plus exhibits, entertainment and networking. Scholarships and Iowa teacher renewal credit are available. For more information and registration, visit www.MEEConference.org.