

August Science Update from Minnesota Dept. of Education

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MDE Science Page: http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Academic_Excellence/Academic_Standards/Science/index.html

New STEM Specialist at MDE

Doug Paulson has joined the MDE staff as an instructional specialist for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Doug was previously the curriculum integration specialist at Monroe Elementary School, a STEM magnet school in the Anoka-Hennepin District. He will coordinate the Math and Science Teacher Partnership professional development program and provide leadership and support around integrating the STEM disciplines in curriculum and instruction. Welcome Doug!

Science Standards Workshop – MDE September 21st

Plans are being developed for a day-long science standards workshop at the Minn. Dept. of Education in Roseville on Tuesday Sep. 21st. We plan to have two strands: an introduction to the standards strand and a strand on the nature of science and engineering for those who have attended an introductory workshop. We will send out a more detailed description and registration details soon.

Professional Learning Communities for Science Teaching Institute – Oct 7-9

The National Science Teachers Assn. is presenting this institute Oct. 7-9 in Bloomington, MN. The authors of the recently published NSTA book with that title will lead this in-depth look at strategies to focus PLCs on science content and learning. Science teacher leaders, department chairs, administer and teacher teams should plan to participate in this special opportunity in Minnesota. Details at www.nsta.org, click conferences/PLC institute.

Science Strand at the Education Minnesota Conference – October 21st

The Minn. Science Teachers Assn. will coordinate a day of science sessions at the Education Minn. Conference on Thursday October 21st in St. Paul. The schedule includes presentations on

- The New Science Standards – John Olson
- Amazing Science Demonstrations – Jerry Wenzel
- Using Science Notebooks across Grade Levels – Nancy Geving and Nancy Johnson
- Science Notebooks in a real-world Earth Science Investigation – Lee Schmitt

The normal MnSTA fall conference and most discipline conferences will not be offered this year. An expanded Science Education Conference will be held in Mankato, March 31- April 2.

Elementary Engineering Conference – Nov. 16th

The Excellence in Elementary Engineering Education (E4) Conference will be held at the University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus on November 16th. This will be the third of the highly popular conferences that have attracted over 250 teachers each year. Information and registration is at www.theworks.org under the Teachers tab.

Presidential Awards

The Minnesota science awardee for 2009 and the state finalists for the 2010 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching have been announced by the White House.

The 2010 Award for secondary teachers: **Stephen Kaback**, Awardee, The Blake School in St. Louis Park, **Callie Bush Miller**, Finalist, Fridley High School, **Claire Hypolite**, Finalist, Edison High School, Minneapolis

The 2010 Award for secondary teachers: **Nick Faber**, Finalist, science specialist teacher at John A. Johnson Elementary School in the St. Paul school district, **Paulette Saatzer**, Finalist, kindergarten teacher at Garlough Environmental Magnet School in West St. Paul.

Their application documents will be evaluated by a national panel and one awardee will be selected for each state. Awardees spend a week in Washington D.C., including a presidential reception at the White House, and receive \$10,000. The 2011 award will be for secondary teachers. The window for applications will open in October. For details, go to www.paemst.org.