

CONNECTICUT SCIENCE CONNECTION

March 2018

THE CONNECTICUT BUILDING A PRESENCE FOR SCIENCE NETWORK IS SUSTAINED THROUGH THE ADVOCACY OF THE CCAT, CONNECTICUT SCIENCE SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION, THE CONNECTICUT SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, AND THE CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

State Coordinator.David Lopath lopath@comcast.net , List Moderator..Eloise Farmer eloisef302@gmail.com
NAMES AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES OF OUR POINTS OF CONTACT AND KEY LEADERS ARE NOT SHARED WITH ANY OTHER ENTITY

Professional Development Opportunities! Are you interested in high quality, low cost, Teacher Professional Development opportunities? Visit the [CSTA website](http://csta-us.org) and click on Opportunities. You will not be disappointed. Contact us if you have questions.



Click on the link to learn more about JPSS! <https://scijinks.gov/subscribe/>

Green Teacher Green Teacher has recently launched a YouTube Channel. In time, we hope this will grow into a valuable resource for educators. <https://greenteacher.com/check-out-these-videos/>



Join the CSSA

Connecticut Science Teachers Association Sponsored Events
more information and registration links at <https://www.csta-us.org/events>



Many thanks to Ron Michaels at the Connecticut State Department of Education for this excellent summary of upcoming science professional development activities :

1. Professional Learning Opportunities with our implementation partner the CT Science Center including two new workshops. One designed specifically for Administrators, and the second to develop NGSS Implementation plans for School district decision makers.
2. Science Lab and safety PD opportunities
3. JASON Learning opportunities
4. Connecticut Invention Convention (CIC) Educational opportunities

1. Professional Learning with our implementation partner CT Science Center

PLANS - Principals Learn About, Network, and Support 3-Dimensional Science Learning <https://ctsciencecenter.org/education/mandell/ngsx-info/>

- Awareness PD designed for Administrators/Evaluators
- Expert facilitated in 1 1/2 days. More opportunities planned for 3/6-7, 4/17-18, 5/1-2, 5/30-31, 7/18-19, 8/21-22, 9/12-13.

NGSS District Transition Planning Workshop

- Start or enhance your district's multi-year science plan
- For vertical teams (example: 1 asst. supt., 2 principals, 1 science coordinator, 2 science coaches)
- Grant funding available
- 1 day workshop scheduled for 3/5, 3/26, 4/9, 4/23, 5/4

NGSX Part II Taking it Back to the Classroom

<https://ctsciencecenter.org/education/mandell/ngsx-info/>

- Hands-on, Expert-facilitated, Focus on support of 3D learning sequences with class materials
- Possible grant funding available. 24 hours of seminar-style learning (pre-req. Part I)
- Check link for several opportunities during the remainder of 2018

The link is as follows: <https://ctsciencecenter.org/education/mandell/ngsx-info/>

2. Science Lab and Safety Workshops

The Connecticut Science Center is now hosting the safety workshops previously held at Wesleyan by the GreenStreet Teaching & Learning Center. Below are the upcoming dates, as well as the link you can follow to learn more and register.

Safety in Next Generation Science Standards – March 6, 2018 9am – 12pm: This workshop will help teachers learn how to incorporate safer activities into their NGSS-based curriculum experience in concert with mandated safety standards/regulations and better professional practices.

Science Lab Safety and Liability for Administrators – April 3, 2018 9am – 12pm: This training program is designed for school administrators and supervisors of science teachers and paraprofessionals. It will focus on appropriate legal standards and professional best practices to help create a safer working environment in middle and high school academic science laboratories.

<https://ctsciencecenter.org/educators/mandell/sciencesafetyworkshops/>

3. JASON Learning opportunities

Open Access to JASON Programs for Public School Educators & Students in Connecticut Through 2018.

JASON Learning is a nonprofit whose mission is to inspire and educate students everywhere through real science and exploration. JASON offers hands-on labs, digital simulations and games, articles, videos, interdisciplinary connections, and powerful classroom management tool for teachers. Explore earth science, forces & motion, energy, climate,

recycling, ecology, environmental science, oceanography, weather, wetlands and more. Register at www.jason.org/ct using your school email address for free access to JASON's award-winning curriculum. Also visit our NGSS page: <http://www.jason.org/ngss> for guidance on what resources best support NGSS and lesson planning and classroom tools. Check back at <http://www.jason.org/ct> for updates on dates and locations.

NEW! Two-part Series: Resources and Tools for an NGSS Curriculum & Problems of Practice (Recommended for middle school)

Getting ready to or already designing your NGSS units of instruction? These two-part workshops will help educators build capacity to implement NGSS pedagogy, be introduced to resources, tools, and strategies that can be included in NGSS units of instruction, and pilot lessons and activities with opportunities to ask new questions, share out challenges, successes, and recommendations with a network of peers. Although selected investigations and resources from specific JASON curricula will be used to illustrate strategies and pedagogy, ideas and tools will be transferrable to other resources educators may be working with. During Day 1 of each program, participants will experience selected three-dimensional investigations and resources, explore key JASON-NGSS teacher tools, and locate additional candidate resources for inclusion in NGSS units of instruction. Educators will take away actual lessons, ideas and strategies to use and pilot with students in the classroom. During Day 2, educators will share their experiences using the resources, successes and challenges, and tips and strategies for integrating them into larger NGSS units. Sessions will also include strategies for connecting lessons and resources to other science disciplines through PE bundles. Participants must attend both dates. Programs will be offered in 2018. Full descriptions coming soon at www.jason.org/ct.

JASON Basics – One Hour Live Webinars for Connecticut 3:00 – 4:00p.m. Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Are you unsure of how to take full advantage of the free resources provided by JASON Learning? We understand the challenges of learning and implementing new lessons, especially when time is a limiting factor. Come join us for a one hour live webinar, customized for educators and administrators in Connecticut to walk-through the “basics” of the JASON site navigation, key teacher tools, and tips on how to find what you’re looking for to support instruction. This includes a 10-15 Q & A so educators can get the help they need to get started or continue using these resources. Register at www.jason.org/ct.

Free workshop will be offered here in CT Spring 2018 – stay tuned for details!

4. Connecticut Invention Convention (CIC) Educational opportunities

The Connecticut Invention Convention (CIC) is an award-winning, internationally recognized, nonprofit educational program designed to develop and enhance problem solving and critical thinking skills in children through the process of invention.

Why has CIC become one of the fastest growing STEM programs in our state? The program is project-based, NGSS and Common Core aligned. The Connecticut Invention Convention gives STEM skills a real world application. Project-Based Learning: Not just for after-school applications..!

By asking students to solve a problem of their own choosing, they immediately connect with the invention design process. They learn collaboration, presentation skills and project management while working through the steps of invention to solve their problem.

**Not your typical STEM Program:
Invention is Interdisciplinary**

Through engineering design practices, students are able to make personal connections to the relevance of science, technology, engineering and math to the world beyond the classroom. Children who enjoy other disciplines also connect to the program, as they can add their passions for art, music, history, language arts, etc. Invention is an interdisciplinary process!

**Differentiated and Hands-on
Learning**

The Connecticut Invention Convention naturally accommodates different student needs and learning styles as they guide their invention process. Moreover, the student-generated problem/solution process leads to high levels of determination and motivation. Invention leads students to own their work. Young inventors need your help at our CIC events!

Once again we invite our CIC partners to come out and volunteer at CIC Regional events and the 35th Annual 2018 Connecticut Invention Convention.

In order to make this a successful year for our young inventors, we need volunteers and judges! Our volunteers save the day! They help our small staff check in inventors, guide inventors to their judging circles, and assist judges and inventors while the judging process is occurring. As parents are not allowed on our judging floor, we only allow certified teachers to

assist our young inventors to the restrooms. We need teachers like you to help us make sure our inventors are comfortable during the long judging circle time.

We also need judges, who speak with our students, offer feedback, score their inventions, and recommend inventors to advance to other events. No experience necessary, since everyone receives training on the day of the events. With so many inventors in attendance, we can match you up with a judging circle of students you do not know.

We are asking for your help to make sure our events run seamlessly for our inventors! Could you invest a few hours at some of our events to support a child's interest in inventing? Could you help us spread the word and ask your colleagues and friends to volunteer with us?

Our Events Schedule

Date	Time	Event	Location
March 18, 2018	8:00 - 11:30 AM	CIC Southern Regional	Hamden Middle School, Hamden
March 18, 2018	12:30 - 4:00 PM	CIC Western Regional	Hamden Middle School, Hamden
March 24, 2018	8:00 - 11:30 AM	CIC Central Regional	CT River Academy East Hartford
March 24, 2018	12:30 - 4:00 PM	CIC Eastern Regional	CT River Academy East Hartford
April 28, 2018	8:00 - 3:00 PM	CIC Final Gampel Pavilion	UConn, Storrs

You can register for individual Regionals or spend the entire day with our young inventors! When you register, you will indicate what events you are available to judge. Please consider registering for more than one event.

For more information contact: Christine Lawlor-King, Director of Education, CIC
PO Box 230311 Hartford, CT 06123 Phone: 860-878-1662

Email: christine@ctinventionconvention.org www.ctinventionconvention.org

Thanks, Ron!!



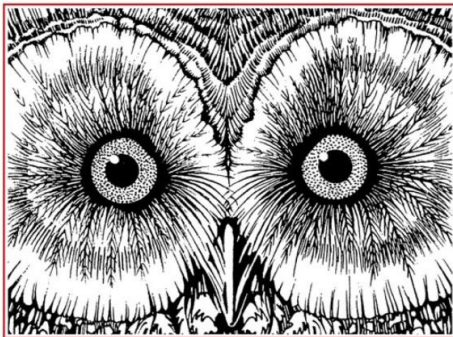
This Just Came in last week! Real World Science is a weeklong summer seminar for middle school math and science teachers that explores key STEM concepts using real-world WWII examples. Twenty-eight teachers from across the country will

come to New Orleans to experience hands-on how necessity, knowledge, perseverance and skill lead to inventions, innovation, and careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), just like in World War II. PROGRAM DATES: July 15 - 21, 2018

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE: The seminar application is open to any 5th-8th grade science teacher (public, public charter, private, and parochial), and who will be teaching a science course to students in the same age group in the 2018-2019 school year. Applications will be evaluated through a competitive process that will include information on teaching experience, a short written statement, and two letters of recommendation. Two spots will be reserved for qualifying Louisiana teachers. Teachers newer to the classroom are encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted from January 8 – March 2, 2018.

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/realworldscience>
<https://goo.gl/fyoroQ>

Connecticut State MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Winter Escapes & Spring Adventures

Recent Discoveries from the Office of State Archaeology, Boston Museum of Science Day Trip, Mission to Mars: Creating the Ideal Team for Human Space Exploration, Pollination Syndromes – Traits That Make Plants Irresistible to Pollinators, Morning Tea with Mr. Darwin: Faith, Religion, and Science, the Pilgrim's First Settlement in Plymouth, Spring Seedlings Workshop, Exploring Connecticut's Towns – Norwich, and an Ancient Technologies Workshop: Flint Knapping are some of the activities and talks being offered this season by the Museum. Don't miss out on exciting special events, workshops, field learning programs, and notable presentations. For a full listing of programs and registration information visit www.cac.uconn.edu/mnhcurrentcalendar or call 860.486.4460 Find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ctmuseum)

NABT BSCS SUMMER WORKSHOP

JULY 29TH- AUGUST 3RD, 2018

LOCATION: WOODSTOCK ACADEMY, WOODSTOCK CT.

Registration Fee: \$425 (housing available for an additional fee)

Teachers, are you ready to transform your teaching? Come join us this summer to:

- Learn about research-based strategies to enhance pedagogical knowledge focused on increasing student's conceptual understanding of Biology

- focus on integrating the NGSS for Life Sciences and AP Biology Framework into your curriculum
- work collaboratively to analyze and enhance current curriculum to better reflect the Big Ideas and unifying concepts in Biology
- explore Biology curriculum building, teaching practices, and assessments
- build a support network of dedicated and passionate biology teachers that will serve to support excellence in teaching . For more information or to register go to <https://ctbioteacheracademy.weebly.com/> or contact Valerie May (vmay@woodstockacademy.org).

Science & Engineering Colloquium for Teachers

MIT Club of Hartford, March 17, 2018

Janet Catherine Johnston, MIT Export Control Officer; Air Force Civilian Astrophysicist, Retired

- Stimulate your intellectual curiosity
- Learn how effort and preparation affect one's future
- Continue education opportunities

"From the Depths to the Heights—An Unusual Career in Geophysics"



The MIT Club of Hartford will be hosting this colloquium at Classical Magnet School in Hartford. This colloquium is open to science, mathematics and technology teachers from Southern New England and is free of charge. Each teacher is encouraged to bring motivated, interested students. Space is limited to an audience of 100 teachers and students, so register today. In addition, all attendees must have registered prior to the event.



CONNECTICUT
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCE AND
ENGINEERING

CALL FOR CONNECTICUT MEDAL OF TECHNOLOGY NOMINATIONS – DUE DATE:

March 9, 2018 – 4:00 p.m. EST

For your information and your assistance in publicizing/distributing

In 2018, the Connecticut Medal of Technology, Connecticut's highest honor for technological achievement in fields crucial to Connecticut's economic competitiveness, will be awarded.

This Medal recognizes an individual, a team, a company/non-profit, or a division of a company/non-profit for outstanding contributions to the economic, environmental and social well-being of Connecticut and the nation through the promotion of technology, technological innovation, or the development of the technological workforce. Modeled after the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, the award is bestowed in alternate years with the Connecticut Medal of Science.

Selection of the annual Medalist is overseen by the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering. Medal recipients will be permanently featured in a Hall of Fame at the Connecticut Science Center.

To find:

1. Call For Nominations (pdf) that includes nomination criteria and instructions
2. 2018 CT Medal Nomination Form

Go to www.cssaonline.org and look for CASE.

Nominations are due by Friday, March 9, 2018 by 4:00 p.m. EST.

Richard H. Strauss
Executive Director



A workshop we have occurring this summer at UC Davis in conjunction with Penn State Center for Science and the Schools is now open to **any teacher in the U.S. teaching middle/high school**. This opportunity is a 4-day workshop immersed in plant phenology studies with Dr. Eric Post and learn about how his work has significantly affected our **knowledge on climate change in the Arctic**. You will also be able to take back materials and activities to implement in your classroom. **All meals and lodging are provided during the workshop, up to \$500 for travel expenses, and a \$500 stipend. All professional development activities align with NGSS based practices and standards.** Please check out the details. Application closes March 15th: Click on: [PSU workshop](#)

Project ATMOSPHERE: K-12 teachers with atmospheric content and a willing supervisor are asked to apply. The workshop has the latest technology for forecasting weather that can be incorporated into lessons. Participants will complete online learning modules before attending on site, and during July 15-21 will be at the National Weather Service Training Center in Kansas City. Participants receive graduate credit, a \$300.00 stipend, lodging, means, travel expenses, tuition, and materials. They are then expected to train precollege teachers in their home regions. Deadline for application is March 26. Click on <https://goo.gl/GtnF48>

Carton 2 Garden Contest rewards pre K-12 schools that re-use at least 100 milk or juice cartons in their gardens. There will be on grand-prize winner of \$5000 and 3 other winners will get a \$2500 value prize. Ten others will get awards worth \$1000. Entries due by April 16. Free seeds and tips when you register at <https://goo.gl/YDYGXu>

CONNECTICUT TEACHERS OF COLOR! ENHANCE YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY. Apply for a 90% *Scholarship*. The National Audubon Society welcomes Teachers and Youth Leaders to apply for this scholarship opportunity.

WHAT: *Sharing Nature: An Educators' Week Workshop*

WHERE: Hog Island Audubon Camp, Muscongus Bay, Maine

WHEN: JULY 15 - JULY 20, 2018

SCHOLARSHIP: \$1000 towards \$1,095 registration fee (*Price includes program, lodging, boat travel, all meals*)

Features of Educators' Week:

- Designed for science and non-science educators to generate exciting ideas for creating and incorporating environmental education activities into your curriculum.
- Inspiring and experienced instructors will share their favorite approaches, methods, and activities for engaging you, and your students, with nature.
- Workshop presentations and guided field trips on the island using techniques in field biology, art, music, photography, theater, journaling, and other disciplines.



Interactive EDI panel led by Deeohn Ferris, Vice President for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at National

Audubon Society.

TO APPLY: E-mail letter of interest and names & contact info of 2 professional references to Camp Director Pete Salmansohn at psalmansohn@audubon.org. Awards are given on a rolling basis, so early application is strongly suggested. For details, photos, videos about the camp visit: hogisland.audubon.org.

Affordable NGSS Professional Development Workshops



CSTA is proud to partner with Peter McLaren to provide a series of NGSS professional development.

McLaren was a member of the national writing committee for the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). He has also served on a number of committees including the National Academy of Engineering's Guiding Implementation of K-12

Engineering Education committee, and the National Academy of Science's Committee for Developing Assessments for the Next Generation Science Standards (NRC, 2014) and was a contributor to the NRC publication Seeing Students Learn Science (NRC, 2017) (Full bio below)

Peter McLaren - Next Gen Education, LLC

Space is limited to 100 participants. Don't miss this opportunity to be trained by a writer of NGSS. Register at <https://www.csta-us.org/events>

Workshop 4: THREE-DIMENSIONAL LESSONS: ADAPTING A TRADITIONAL LESSON TO SUPPORT THREE-DIMENSIONAL TEACHING AND LEARNING Presenter: Peter McLaren - Next Gen Education, LLC

This full-day workshop will bring educators through a process where they will adapt a traditional lesson to support three-dimensional instruction. Educators will bring along a lesson to which they are familiar and learn how to integrate science and engineering practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts. Educators will use tools and templates designed to help facilitate the adaptation process.

Date: Saturday, May 5 from 9:00AM-3:00PM Cost: \$10 (Light lunch will be provided)

Location: CREC Academy of Science and Innovation, 600 Slater Road, New Britain, CT <https://www.csta-us.org/events>

And even more?
It's CSTA Grant time again....
<https://www.csta-us.org/grants>

The Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake is hiring certified teachers to work as camp instructors and camp counselors during their '2018 Summer Learning Camps for Kids.'

<https://goo.gl/forms/DluUOEfBa4QB3ne2>

We offer competitive pay, room and board at the MLC during camps, a beautiful place to work, and a great staff of highly-qualified educators to work with.

Please direct any questions to MontanaLearningCenter@gmail.com. Apply today!

NSTA has created a new engineering list. This is in addition to the STEM list currently in existence. Here is the vision:



This engineering list can be used for a variety of questions, from elementary teachers looking for and sharing ideas to secondary engineering lab teachers asking about supplies, to science content teachers looking to integrate engineering into their lessons. Fore example, teachers could post an engineering design challenge they were considering or have tried and get feedback on how to improve it. Here are some points:

1. With engineering explicitly included as a fourth discipline in NGSS, and it will be valuable to have a list to which posts can be made focusing on that discipline
2. STEM is (in my mind) more interdisciplinary in nature. Engineering focuses specifically on the E in STEM
3. The iterative nature of engineering through the engineering design process (EDP) can be one major focus (as it is in the NGSS DCI's for engineering)
4. Engineers and engineering teachers could provide feedback to elementary teachers including content knowledge to support their EDP challenges
5. Such a list can boost quality engineering activities K-12 through the interactions for which the lists are famous!
6. The list can be actively watched by folks interested in providing support PreK-12 in this field. (And the the lists are famous for having folks actively watch and support the discourse online!)

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Make sure you are logged in on the NSTA site.

Then go to:

Membership tab --> Member Services --> members only Email list server Scroll to "Subscribing to/unsubscribing from e-mail lists" and follow directions from there.

- Or go straight to this link:

http://www.nsta.org/membership/listserver_update.aspx

A quality education in science is fast disappearing as more and more science teachers leave the profession due to inadequate administrative support, isolated working conditions, and lower salaries.

Started by a generous contribution from NSTA's past President, Dr. John Penick, The Next Generation Science Teachers Fund provides support by funding pre-service and new teacher memberships in NSTA and complimentary registrations to NSTA's annual conference on science education. Scholarship awardees get:

- The opportunity to network and speak directly with over 50,000 other science teachers across the country!
- 24/7 immediate access to NSTA's library of printed and electronic materials they can use every day to bring their students the kind of education they need and deserve!
- Attendance to NSTA's national conference that will give them access to years' worth of new teaching ideas and inspiration in one week!

If you're a preservice science teacher or in your first five years of teaching, we encourage you to apply. Our first cohort will be named at the end of January, 2018.
[APPLY](#)

UConn Environmental Programs for Teens, Adults, & Teachers

UConn's NRCA enables **intergenerational learners** (teens, adults & teachers) to generate real conservation benefits to Connecticut communities by providing the tools and support to carry out **conservation-based service-learning projects** or **curriculum**.

Read on to learn more about our exciting **2018 programming!** CAP arms teens (**rising 10th-12th graders**) with skills used by professionals to address **current environmental issues**. Students are immersed in real field-based science and focusing on:

WATER QUALITY
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
GIS TECHNOLOGY
FISHERIES
WILDLIFE
FORESTRY
SOILS

during an exciting **weeklong summer field experience** at UConn. Then, students design their **own conservation project** to provide real solutions for their communities, and present their work at the **Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources**.



Applications coming soon!

[Learn more about CAP](#)

Conservation Training Partnerships (CTP)

CTP partners teens (**rising 9th-12th graders**) and **adult conservation volunteers**, and supports the team in carrying out a conservation-based community project.

The team participates in an **interactive 2-day field workshop** ([find a workshop near you!](#)), and applies conservation and innovative **mapping and web tools** in field activities. The team then designs and carries out a **conservation project** of any intensity and implements it in their town.

Workshops located **throughout Connecticut** and are **free** to all participants.

Applications coming soon!

[Learn more about CTP](#)

Teacher Professional Learning (TPL)

TPL extends the NRCA experience to secondary science teachers. This **3-day professional development workshop** immerses teachers in relevant regional **water resource issues**, and provides teachers with **online mapping tools** to encourage their students to study these issues further.

Each teacher designs 5-7 lessons for a Water and Sustainability Science Unit aligned with specific **Next Generation Science Standards** Performance Expectations.

Workshop located at **UConn Storrs Campus** on Aug. 13-15. Participants receive a **stipend**.



Applications coming soon!

[Learn more about TPL](#)

School & Organization Visits

If you are interested in learning more, we are happy to visit **schools & organizations** to give **brief presentations** for students, teachers, and community members about our **NRCA programs**.

Please contact nrca@uconn.edu or **860-486-4917** to find out more.

1376 Storrs Rd, Unit 4087, Storrs,
CT 06269 860-486-4917
nrca@uconn.edu <http://nrca.uco>

April 28, 2018 8 - 3

PM CIC Final Gampel Pavilion,
UConn, Storrs

You can register for individual Regionals or spend the entire day with our young inventors! When you register, you will indicate what events you are available to judge. Please consider registering for more than one event.

To register as a judge click here:

<https://www.cicregistration.org/judges/>

As the event day approaches, a more definitive schedule will be sent to you.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED as a judge, simply forward this email to others who also may want to foster creativity in our youth. *Thank you for your support,*

Christine Lawlor-King

Christine@ctinventionconvention.org

**DO YOU KNOW A SCIENCE
TEACHER DESERVING OF
RECOGNITION? CONSIDER
NOMINATING A CANDIDATE**

FOR:



Presidential Awards for Excellence

in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Rewarding & Inspiring Great Teaching Since 1983



[Click here](#) to nominate

The 2017 Secondary Science Finalists, whom CSSA honored at their October 11 Professional Development Dinner Meeting are as follows:

Matthew Brodeur - East Hartford High School

Erin Lucia - New Milford High School

Alexa Mitchell - RHAM High School - Region 8

Anja Pennell - Greater Hartford Academy Of The Arts Magnet Middle School

Diane Pintavalle - Glastonbury High School



What Is Science Matters? *Science Matters is an initiative by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) to bring content, news, and information that supports quality science education to parents and teachers nationwide. Science Matters builds on the success of the Building a Presence for Science program, first launched in 1997 as an e-networking initiative to assist teachers of science with professional development opportunities. Building a Presence for Science—now Science Matters—reaches readers in 34 states and the District of Columbia. Why does Science Matter? Science is critical to understanding the world around us. Most Americans feel that they received a good education and that their children will as well. Unfortunately, not many are aware that international tests show that American students are simply not performing well in science when compared to students in other*

countries. Many students (and their parents!) believe that science is irrelevant to their lives. Innovation leads to new products and processes that sustain our economy, and this innovation depends on a solid knowledge base in science, math, and engineering. All jobs of the future will require a basic understanding of math and science. The most recent ten year employment projections by the U.S. Labor Department show that of the 20 fastest growing occupations projected for 2014, 15 of them require significant mathematics or science preparation to successfully compete for a job. This is why Science Matters. Quality learning experiences in the sciences—starting at an early age—are critical to science literacy and our future workforce. Feel free to publish this information in school newsletters and bulletins, and share it with other parents, teachers, and administrators.