

**CONNECTICUT SCIENCE CONNECTION**

**October 2015**

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

State Coordinator..David Lopath      [lopath@comcast.net](mailto:lopath@comcast.net)  
 List Moderator..Eloise Farmer      [eloisef302@gmail.com](mailto:eloisef302@gmail.com)

**NAMES AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES OF OUR POINTS OF CONTACT AND KEY LEADERS ARE NOT SHARED WITH ANY OTHER ENTITY**

**Resources**

CSD E's [science curriculum web site.](#)

**EQulP Rubric for Science Released!**

The [Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products \(EQulP\) Rubric for Lessons & Units: Science](#)

**Visit the NGSS@NSTA Hub :**

The [NGSS@NSTA Hub](#) now offers a dynamic version of the *Next Generation Science Standards*..

Would you like a complete list of grants that has been provided by the National Science Teachers Association? NSTA has put these grant and their deadlines in an easy to follow calendar. It includes: deadline date, description, category, and grade level. To view this list, please visit:

<http://www.nsta.org/publications/calendar/>

**SAVE THE DATE! CONNECTICUT SCIENCE SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION:**

All educators welcome! DATE: Wednesday, October 7th, 2015, 5:30 - 8:00pm  
 Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cromwell, CT  
 Speaker: [Dianna L. Wentzell](#),  
 Commissioner, CT State Department of Education.

Cocktails and Social Time, Meet w/ Sponsoring Exhibitor 4:30-5:30 PM  
 Buffet Dinner and CSSA Business Meeting 5:30-7:00. For more info, click on:

<http://www.cssaonline.org/dinner-meetings.html>

<https://www.ctsciencecenter.org/education/stem2015/>



**Connecticut Science Educators Professional Development Day**

Date: Saturday, November 21, 2015      Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
 Hamden Middle School, Hamden, CT.

The 2015 Connecticut Science Educators' Professional Development Day will be held on Saturday November 21 at Hamden Middle School, Hamden, CT. This annual event attracts hundreds of science educators from across the state and throughout New England for workshops, seminars, speakers and commercial exhibitors. This event is co-sponsored by the Connecticut Science Teachers Association and the Connecticut Science Supervisors Association.

The conference program runs from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM, and it is expected that over 300 K - college science educators from around the state of Connecticut will attend.

This year's theme is <Towards NGSS: Where Science and Education Meet>

For early registration, go to: <http://www.csta-us.org/event.htm?id=2azessfl>



**SAVE THE DATES! CONNECTICUT SCIENCE SAFETY NETWORK CSSN 2015-16 WORKSHOP CALENDAR** can be found at:

[http://www.wesleyan.edu/greenstreet/professionaldev/science\\_safety/2015-16%20CSSN%202015-16%20Workshop%20Calendar.pdf](http://www.wesleyan.edu/greenstreet/professionaldev/science_safety/2015-16%20CSSN%202015-16%20Workshop%20Calendar.pdf)

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**



From Donna Ellis at UConn: IPM curriculum kits are now available to any teachers or other educators who could use them in their classes, at no cost as long as the teachers can pick them up at UConn. We still have quite a few curriculum kits available. Teachers can view the curriculum

and the excellent curriculum alignments completed by Mary Lou Smith on the UConn IPM website at [http://www.ipm.uconn.edu/pa\\_curriculum/](http://www.ipm.uconn.edu/pa_curriculum/). I am available to conduct workshops or other curriculum training by request if any teachers are interested. To schedule a pickup of kits please contact Donna Ellis at [donna.ellis@uconn.edu](mailto:donna.ellis@uconn.edu) and make arrangements to pick up the curriculum kits at the UConn Depot campus.



**InventionX Educator Workshop will take place on Friday, October 23**

from 9 am-4 pm at the University of Hartford. See the attached flyer for more information and the link to register.

InventionX is an invention educator training program and student challenge to engage middle and high school students in STEM content. It highlights real world applications of knowledge and increases student motivation, critical thinking skills, and long-term engagement in STEM careers. InventionX is a 5-step framework that has been used by universities, startup companies, and established organizations to launch new businesses and technologies.

This is the first InventionX Educator Workshop in CT. The workshop is FREE for any formal or informal educator of middle or high school grades. **Date: Friday, October 23, 2015, Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

\*Breakfast & lunch provided

Location: University of Hartford  
200 Bloomfield Ave., West Harford  
Charles A. Dana Hall, Room 426

Click here to register online  
<http://inventionx.org/training-events/inventionx-educator-training-workshop/>

**Please register by October 9.**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM – APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED!**

The Connecticut Chapter of the Society of Women Environmental Professionals (SWEP-CT) is now accepting applications for our 2014-2015 Environmental Grant Program. This grant program provides non-profit community based groups and educational organizations with up to \$2000 in funding for local projects that benefit the environment in Connecticut. Note that the grant application deadline is November 15th, 2015. For examples of groups

and projects that have received funding in the past, please visit our website [www.swep-ct.org](http://www.swep-ct.org). You can also download application forms on our website.

We encourage you to forward notice of the program and application process to groups and schools in your community. The SWEP Executive Committee will review each application and select Grantees in December. Awards will be made in January 2015.

If you have any questions about SWEP-CT's Environmental Grant Program and application process, please contact Melody Christopher at [melody.b.christopher@us.abb.com](mailto:melody.b.christopher@us.abb.com) or 860-687-4907.

The application process is quick – a one page form and a W-9 if selected.

### **AWARD FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS!**



Do you know a great teacher of science in Connecticut? Someone who really reaches, encourages, and inspires their students?

A colleague or even yourself?

Apply for the CSTA Excellence in Science Teaching Award.

The Connecticut Science Teachers' Association gives three 'Excellence In Science Teaching' awards each year: Elementary, Middle School, and Secondary.

These awards recognize and honor teachers who epitomize the highest ideals of the teaching profession by:

- Being effective and innovative classroom teachers of science
- Serving as role models for colleagues and providing outreach to colleagues through workshops, publications, school-wide projects, or special events.
- Demonstrating a genuine commitment to personal and professional growth (life-long learning) by attendance and active participation at conferences, workshops, graduate courses, and in-service sessions.
- Reaching out beyond their classrooms and using their knowledge and talents in community service programs and projects.

Teaching Experience: At least five years of successful science teaching.

Nomination: By one or more current members of CSTA or CSSA, or by self-nomination.

Approval: By a 90% vote of Award Committee members (preferably, and usually by unanimous acclamation).

Award: A commemorative plaque, a \$500 monetary award, and dinner for the awardee and a guest of his/her choice at the annual award banquet.

For additional information please contact Dr. Ralph Yulo Jr Phone: 860-974-0599 or by email: [oluy@aol.com](mailto:oluy@aol.com)

**Deadline for nominations is November 16.** Click on: <http://www.csta-us.org/images/AwardApplic1.15.pdf> to receive an application form.



[www.CLEANet.org](http://www.CLEANet.org) has more than 640 units, lessons, videos, and diagrams that have been rigorously reviewed by both scientists and teachers. While their focus is on Middle and High school, there are some middle school activities that would be appropriate. There may also be some resources on the k12 portal of the SERC website: <http://serc.carleton.edu/k12/index.html>

**Air Quality and Asthma Solutions:  
EPA's Air Quality Flag Program  
OCTOBER 08, 2015 - 3:00 PM TO 4:00  
PM ONLINE WEBINAR**

Click Here to REGISTER:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5529209049526621442>

Do you work in a school or community where issues like asthma or obesity are a concern? Maybe you've heard of Ozone Alert Days or seen the air quality forecast on certain days change from green to yellow or orange. What do these colors mean?

Learn about the impact of outdoor air quality on human health and specific actions that can be taken on days with poor air quality through participation in EPA's free Air Quality Flag Program. This webinar is open to any school or organization that is new to the Flag Program or that would like to learn more and expand their program. Some presentation material may focus on the northeastern United States, but anyone from across the country can participate. You will learn how to:

- Discuss the basics of air quality, including what makes up air pollution, why the air feels dirtier on some days, and what are smog, ozone and particulates.
- Identify how climate change affects air quality and asthma, and what you can do about it.
- Educate your school or community about air quality and human health, and get them excited about the Flag Program.
- Help people who suffer from asthma to reduce their symptoms and have more asthma-free days, which could mean fewer acute asthma attacks, fewer missed days of school for kids, and even fewer hospitalizations due to asthma by implementing EPA's Air Quality Flag Program.
- Connect your program to your school's curriculum.

Presenters: • Michele Chaffee, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection,

- Megan Goold, EPA Region 3
- Renee Haider, Sustainable Jersey
- Laurel Kohl, Connecticut Institute for Sustainable Energy
- Anne McWilliams, EPA Region 1
- Rebecca Ofrane, EPA Region 2
- Mary Beth Smuts, EPA Region 1

**ELEMENTARY SCIENCE EXTRAVAGANZA!  
Saturday, October 3, 2015, Sacred Heart University  
at the Commons  
5151 Park Ave, Fairfield, CT 06825  
Free! Prizes!  
Registration: 9:00 am  
Doors open 9:30 to 11:30 am  
Discover engaging and fun, content-specific science  
activities that you can use in your classroom.  
Activities will be linked to the Connecticut Science  
Frameworks  
and the Next Generation Science Standards.  
Fun!**

**SAVE THE DATE October 25, 2015 — Dean Kamen visits UConn**

Dean Kamen will visit the University of Connecticut on the afternoon of Sunday, October 25. This event is hosted and sponsored by the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS) at UConn and the University of Connecticut School of Engineering. Kamen has received many awards for his efforts. Notably, Kamen was awarded the National Medal of Technology in 2000. Presented by President Clinton, this award was in recognition for inventions that have advanced medical care worldwide, and for innovative and imaginative leadership in awakening America to the excitement of science and technology. Kamen was also awarded the Lemelson-MIT Prize in 2002, and was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in May 2005. He is a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical & Biological Engineering, and has been a member of the National Academy of Engineering since 1997. In 2010, Dean hosted the Planet Green television series Dean of Invention. In addition to DEKA, one of Dean's proudest accomplishments is founding FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), an organization dedicated to motivating the next generation to understand, use and enjoy science and technology. Founded in 1989, this year FIRST will serve more than 300,000 young people, ages 6 to 18, in more than 60 countries around the globe. High-school-aged participants are eligible to apply for more than \$16 million in scholarships from leading colleges, universities, and corporations. Studies have shown that FIRST Alumni are highly motivated to pursue careers in science and engineering, thus fulfilling Dean's goal of inspiring the next generation of technological leaders.

For additional information, contact Tao Jiang, Ph.D., MBA, Assistant Professor, CICATS' Investigator Advocate at [jiang@uchc.edu](mailto:jiang@uchc.edu)  
<http://cicats.uconn.edu/2015/08/11/deankamen/>

**WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE INVENTION CONVENTION? PLEASE CLICK ON THE PDF LOGO BELOW: I CANNOT EDIT PDF FILES THAT ARE FLIERS!**



CIC PD flyer fall  
2015 master.pdf

**Air Quality and Asthma Solutions:  
EPA's Air Quality Flag Program  
OCTOBER 08, 2015 - 3:00 PM TO 4:00  
PM**

**ONLINE WEBINAR: Click Here to  
REGISTER**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5529209049526621442>

Do you work in a school or community where issues like asthma or obesity are a concern? Maybe you've heard of Ozone Alert Days or seen the air quality forecast on certain days change from green to yellow or orange. What do these colors mean?

Learn about the impact of outdoor air quality on human health and specific actions that can be taken on days with poor air quality through participation in EPA's free Air Quality Flag Program. This webinar is open to any school or organization that is new to the Flag Program or that would like to learn more and expand their program. Some presentation material may focus on the northeastern United States, but anyone from across the country can participate.

will learn how to:

- Discuss the basics of air quality, including what makes up air pollution, why the air feels dirtier on some days, and what are smog, ozone and particulates.
- Identify how climate change affects air quality and asthma, and what you can do about it.
- Educate your school or community about air quality and

human health, and get them excited about the Flag Program.

- Help people who suffer from asthma to reduce their symptoms and have more asthma-free days, which could mean fewer acute asthma attacks, fewer missed days of school for kids, and even fewer hospitalizations due to asthma by implementing EPA's Air Quality Flag Program.
- Connect your program to your school's curriculum.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE  
1<sup>st</sup> GREATER HARTFORD  
MAKER FAIRE**

**Saturday, October 3, 2015 > 10 am-5 pm**  
[greaterhartfordmakerfaire.com](http://greaterhartfordmakerfaire.com)

**It's FREE!**

The Maker Faire is a hands-on event for people of all ages interested in creating, making, building, innovating, tinkering, hacking, engineering, learning, designing, or connecting.

**October 3, 2015  
10 am-5 pm  
Tunxis Community College  
Farmington, CT  
@GHartfordMF**

SPONSORED BY  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
**Next Generation Manufacturing**  
[www.nextgenmfg.org](http://www.nextgenmfg.org)  
A National Science Foundation Center of Excellence

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
CBIA  
MakeHartford  
MakerspaceCT

## **PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS:**

**WANTED: "High-Tech Pen Pals"**

Fifth grade classes near Albuquerque, New Mexico, are looking for partners to exchange information about watersheds, rivers, stormwater, and other water resources topics!

RiverXchange is a FREE year-long program focused on communication between classes around the world about water resources issues. Our hands-on lessons can be used for reference, to enhance your existing curriculum, or as a complete program that explores rivers, watersheds, stormwater, municipal water supplies, ecology, and conservation.

Students communicate 4 times throughout the school year on a private website. We provide training and support to ensure a successful experience. Through writing and creative sharing about rivers, we integrate science with language arts, social studies, and 21st-Century learning skills, all correlated to Common Core Language Arts Standards!

Check out our public website, [www.RiverXchange.com](http://www.RiverXchange.com), for more information and to access the registration form. I'd love to hear from you if you have any questions about the program.

Susan Quincy  
Environmental Education Specialist  
Coordinator Project Food, Land & People and Project WET  
State Parks Public Outreach  
Natural Resource and Recreation  
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
Kellogg Environmental Center, 500 Hawthorne Ave, Derby CT 06418  
P: 203-734-2513  
[susan.quincy@ct.gov](mailto:susan.quincy@ct.gov)

# **2016 Connecticut Radon Poster Contest Information and Contest Rules**

Send posters to:

The Connecticut Department of Public Health - Radon Program  
410 Capitol Avenue, MS# 51-RAD, P.O. Box 340308 -Hartford, CT 06134  
What is Radon?

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, and chemically inert radioactive gas. It is formed by the natural radioactive decay of uranium in rock, soil, and water. It can be found in all 50 states. Inhaling radon gas can be dangerous to you and your family. Testing your home is the only way to know if it is present.

**The Goal:**

Participation in our poster contest is a great platform for students and their families to learn more about radon and the health risk posed by exposure to elevated levels of radon gas.

The posters help increase awareness of radon, which the U.S. Surgeon General has warned is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking and the number one cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers. The EPA estimates that radon causes about 22,000 deaths from lung cancer annually in the United States.

**Eligibility Requirements**

The contest is open to all students ages 9-14. They can be enrolled in any school-public, private, tribal, etc. or through any sponsoring club, such as a scouting organization or 4-H club.

Artwork must meet the following requirements:

- Use white paper. Size preferred is 12X18, but all sizes will be accepted.
- No student names on front
- Include a title and topic on the front.
- Fill out the Artwork Submission Form & tape on the back of the poster.
- Create with markers, crayons, paint, collage, pencil, photographs, or computer graphics.
- Do not use copyrighted characters, logos, or brand names.
- Message should be large, readable, and easily reproduced.
- Use a one-inch (1") margin on all sides

**Poster Topics**

Choose from the following topics:

1. What is radon?
2. Where does radon come from?
3. How does radon get into our homes?
4. Radon can cause lung cancer.
5. Test your home for radon.

**Awards and Recognition**

Posters will be judged by the state Radon Program. The top four winners will receive prizes in the form of gift cards. In addition, thirteen posters will be selected for the annual CT Radon Poster Calendar.

Please mail posters to the CT Department of Public Health (CT DPH) as soon as they are complete. \*Entries must be received by November 13, 2015.

2015 Winner: Hunter, Age 12

**DO YOU  
HAVE  
STUDENTS  
INTERESTED  
IN  
STUDYING BEETLES? GRADES 7-12  
AWARD**



Youth Incentive Award, The Coleopterists Society, an international organization of professionals and hobbyists interested in the study of beetles, has established a program to recognize young people studying beetles. The Society has pledged to provide up to \$300 each year for the Youth Incentive Award Program. Each of the two awards (Junior and Senior) is a monetary grant of \$150, award recipients also will receive up to \$200 (Junior Award) and \$400 (Senior Award) of equipment credit from the BioQuip Products catalog, In addition to monetary and BioQuip grants, award recipients will receive a one year subscription to the society journal, The Coleopterists Bulletin  
This is for children of grades 7-12 only. The objectives of the Youth Incentive Award are to:

- \* provide encouragement and assistance to young beetle enthusiasts (grades 7-12).
- \* promote the study of beetles, the most diverse group of insects, as a rewarding lifelong avocation or career.
- \* provide opportunities for young people to develop important life skills such as leadership, cooperation, communication, planning and conducting a scientific study, grant writing and managing funds.
- \* provide some financial support to enrich activities or projects.

A Youth Incentive Award Committee from the Coleopterists Society will evaluate the applications and will select up to two winners annually;

one each in junior (grades 7-9) and senior (grades 10-12) categories. The selection committee invites proposals for topics such as field collecting trips to conduct beetle species inventories or diversity studies, attending workshops or visiting entomology or natural history museums for special training and projects on beetles, studying aspects of beetle biology, etc. The proposed activities or projects will be evaluated on their degree of creativity, educational benefit to the applicant, scientific merit, feasibility and budgetary planning. This Award is for proposals by individuals only. Each applicant is strongly encouraged to find an adult advisor (teacher, youth group leader, parent, etc.) to provide guidance in proposal development, but the proposal **MUST** be written by the applicant. The Coleopterists Society would also be happy to assist in establishing contacts between youth and professional Coleopterists.

Additional details and application forms for The Coleopterists Society Youth Incentive Award Program can be obtained from: Dr. David G. Furth; Entomology, NHB, MRC 165; P.O. Box 37012; Smithsonian Institution; Washington, D. C. 20013-7012 (phone: 202-633-0990, FAX: 202-786-2894, email: furthd@si.edu). Also check The Coleopterists Society WebPage:

[http://www.coleopsoc.org/default.asp?Action=Show\\_SocietyInfo&ID=Youth](http://www.coleopsoc.org/default.asp?Action=Show_SocietyInfo&ID=Youth)

**EARTH SCIENCE WEEK 2015 CONTESTS:** The American Geosciences Institute is sponsoring a series of contests to celebrate Earth Science Week 2015. This year's celebration takes place Oct. 11-17, 2015.

**Earth Science Week 2015 Photography Contest -- Open to All Ages**

<http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/photography/index.html>

Geoscientists study our planet's geosphere (land), hydrosphere (water), atmosphere (air), and biosphere (living things). These spheres -- or Earth systems -- continually affect and influence one another. With a camera, you can capture evidence of the dynamic impact of change processes in your home, neighborhood, school, workplace or local public spaces. In a photo, show at least one Earth system affecting another Earth system in your community.

**Earth Science Week 2015 Visual Arts Contest -- Open to Students in Grades K-5**

<http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/visualarts/index.html>

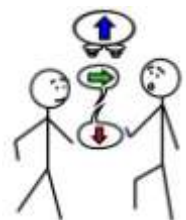
Earth science is the study of Earth systems -- land, water, air and living things. Scientists pay special attention to the ways these things affect each other, such as the way wind shapes the landscape or falling rain nourishes plants. Use artwork to show how land, water, air and living things interact in the world around you.

**Earth Science Week 2015 Essay Contest -- Open to Students in Grades 6-9**

<http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/essay/index.html> Since the earliest hand-drawn maps and diagrams, "visualization" has been an important way of explaining and understanding the interactions of land, water, air and living things. Earth scientists today use more sophisticated technology to monitor and represent these Earth systems -- the geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and biosphere. In an original essay no more than 300 words in length, explain one way that geoscientists' use of cutting-edge visualization is advancing Earth science today.

**The entry deadline for all three contests is Oct. 16, 2015.** If you have any questions about these contests, please email the Earth Science Week staff at

[info@earthsciweek.org](mailto:info@earthsciweek.org)



A Science Argumentation rubric has been developed by Mary Lou Smith and her colleagues. If anyone tries it out, they would really like

to get some feedback! To get a copy, you can request an updated one by email from Eloise Farmer at [eloisef302@gmail.com](mailto:eloisef302@gmail.com)

**YOU CAN HELP A STUDENT WITH HER PROJECT:** I am a candidate for a Masters of Science in Science Education degree through Montana State University. For my capstone project, my contribution is to research current science issues and teacher resources for the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

My goal is to connect scientists and educators through this project, including with conversations like scientist interviews and teacher forums. Part of this project includes surveying teachers on their current knowledge of NGSS and access to technology.

This is a special request to ask you to complete this voluntary survey, which takes approximately 10-15 minutes, with optional fields and is confidential. Here is the survey link: <http://teachingcontinuum.com/survey>

This survey is open to any and all teachers, regardless of the topic or if they are involved with NGSS. Please feel free to send along to any of your peers. I'm afraid I don't have much to offer as a thank you other than a genuine thank you, so thank you. If you are interested in being involved with the teacher forums, I think this is a place for you to share! Let me know if you have any questions and thank you again for your tremendous support.  
Jess



**OCEAN CLASSROOMS**  
Inspire New Depths

You can sign up for a free 30-day trial to check out a new online course, Marine Science 101. It is a comprehensive online (with offline components), high school, semester-long course.

<https://oceanclassrooms.com/learning/marine-science-101>

We also have a free Ocean Literacy online course on our home page:

<https://oceanclassrooms.com/> as well as a free portal with live ocean data from around the globe. <https://oceanclassrooms.com/sciencenodes>  
[cyndi@oceanclassrooms.com](mailto:cyndi@oceanclassrooms.com)



**FOR SCIENCE EDUCATORS:** Things I received or people sent this summer that are of interest, and might even provide a chuckle:

Have you seen the movie set in the year 2022 with Charleton Heston, Leigh Taylor Young and Edward G. Robinson (his final film) called **Soylent Green**? The dystopian plot takes place in a densely overpopulated, starving New York City of the future, NYPD detective Robert Thorn (Charlton Heston) investigates the murder of an executive at rations manufacturer Soylent Corporation.

Well, there is now soylent available as a powder (not a biscuit, thank heavens)! See for yourself at <https://www.soylent.com/> The movie is worth viewing (with these ratings (7.1/10-IMDb, 3/4-Roger Ebert, 71%-Rotten Tomatoes) Let's hope that now that Soylent is here, the rest of the plot is not inevitable. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVpN312hYgU> is the trailer.

Some of us laugh, others of us think this is not so funny...a humorous skit on education by Key and Peele. <http://www.cc.com/video-clips/aimepr/key-and-pee-teachingcenter>

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR RETIRED SCIENCE CONTENT SPECIALISTS** willing to support K-6 science teachers on our free website at <http://justaskateacher.com>. Our project asks the science content specialist to (1) first view a video of a K-6 science lesson, (2) then meet with the teacher online to discuss the science content, and (3) finally, allow us to post the video of the session with the teacher so that other K-6 teachers can benefit. Interested? Please let us know.

Charles Matthews  
Academic Research Scientist  
University of Missouri at St. Louis  
Email to schedule Skype or PolyCom Session [matthewscc@umsl.edu](mailto:matthewscc@umsl.edu)  
Skype: dr.charles.c.matthews  
PolyCom IP Address 98.172.76.67

**IF YOU TEACH COURSES WITH CHEMISTRY OR PHYSICS CONTENT, WE NEED YOUR EXPERTISE.**

Currently, our website shares 30 K-6 lessons with physics content and 32 K-6 lessons with chemistry content. In anticipation of increased numbers of K-6 teachers sharing lessons in 2015-16, we would like to have more physical science content specialists who would consider viewing a video of a K-6 lesson, meeting online with the teacher who taught the lesson to discuss the lesson's science

content, and then sharing the recorded discussion on our website for the benefit of K-6 teachers nationwide. (We make all our video recordings at-a-distance).

Meanwhile, you can get our Summer 2015 Newsletter, share it, and give us your ideas. Our Summer Newsletter focuses on the past, present, and future of the "Teachers Helping Teachers Teach Inquiry Science: Just ASK" project and invites suggestions and questions.

Teachers currently sharing their adapted science inquiry lessons always appreciate comments and suggestions. Have a great summer.

-----  
Charles Matthews, Academic Research Scientist, University of Missouri at St. Louis. Email to schedule Skype or PolyCom Session, [matthewscc@umsl.edu](mailto:matthewscc@umsl.edu)

Skype: dr.charles.c.matthews  
PolyCom IP Address 98.172.76.**STEM PROGRAM AT CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY!**

The MS in STEM Education for Certified Teachers will prepare certified teachers in the trans-disciplinary areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Courses are aligned with National and/or CT state content standards in each

discipline: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, and the Common Core for Mathematics and Language Arts. Does not lead to CT state teacher certification or cross-endorsement <http://ccsu.smartcatalogiq.com/current/Undergraduate-Graduate-Catalog/Masters-Degree-Programs/STEM-Education-for-Certified-Teachers-M-S> . For further information, contact Marsha Bednarski at: [bednarskim@ccsu.edu](mailto:bednarskim@ccsu.edu)

Connecticut Green LEAF Schools has been awarded a **Teacher Quality Partnership Grant** through the CT Office of Higher Education. . More information about Connecticut Green LEAF Schools can be found at [www.ctgreenleaf.org](http://www.ctgreenleaf.org)

#### **NEW MATERIALS AND PROJECTS FROM NASA!**

<https://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/index.html>

**NGSS K-8 Evidence Statements Now Available** The NGSS Evidence Statements for elementary grades (K-5) and middle grades (6-8) are now available. These statements were developed and reviewed by educators and scientists, including many members of the NGSS writing team. The evidence statements are intended to identify clear, measurable components that, if met, fully satisfy each performance expectation (PE) described within the NGSS. Given that each PE is three-dimensional, the statements describe how students can use the practices, crosscutting concepts, and disciplinary core ideas together to demonstrate proficiency on the PEs by the end of instruction. They are not meant to limit or dictate instruction and were written to allow for multiple methods and contexts of performance, including students' performance on multiple related PEs together at the same time.

For more information, see the Introduction and Overview, which applies to the evidence statements for all grade levels. Additional materials, including appendices for K-2, 3-5, and middle school are coming soon.

**AN IMPORTANT LINK FOR EDUCATORS TO VISIT FOR INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF SCIENCE STANDARDS IN CONNECTICUT:**

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2683&Q=333862>

*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.*