

# Summer 2014 Newsletter

Science - Technology - Engineering - Mathematics

*See more below about:  
the 5th Annual STEM Day at the  
State Fair  
Thursday, August 21, 2014*

*STEM Conference Highlights*

*Award to Latino Engineering and  
Academic Day*

*MN Dreams Girl Scout Jamboree in  
2015*

*Power of Afterschool meeting in  
Southeast MN*

*Regional Network Updates*

*Calendar Highlights*

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**SciMathMN is a non-profit,  
statewide education and  
business coalition  
advocating for quality pre-  
K-16 science, technology,  
engineering, and  
mathematics education  
based on research,  
national  
standards  
and  
effective  
practices.**



## Letter from the Executive Director of SciMathMN

**What is the value of a network?** Some, like Twitter, are social, while others are more tangible, like your book club. All share a common definition: A place where people with common interests can develop stronger bonds.

This issue demonstrates the value of a network. You'll find information on STEM Day at the Fair, an innovative Latino engineering program, next summer's Girl Scout Jamboree, and much more. The common theme running throughout these activities is that STEM is fun, interesting and rewarding.

Cross-pollination is a vital value of the MN STEM Network. I hope you're able to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities and thank you for being a part of our network.



Peter Lindstrom  
Executive Director

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## Excitement is Building for STEM Day at the State Fair!

**Thursday, August 21, 9:00 - 5:00**

**Carousel Park near the Grandstands at the Minnesota State Fair**

Carousel Park will be brimming with STEM activities and family fun

**Major initiatives include policymaker briefings, the [STEM Teacher Center](#) online resource and the Minnesota STEM Network.**

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**The Minnesota STEM Network is an outreach initiative of SciMathMN which**  
**- increases engagement in education**  
**- builds community among stakeholders**  
**- promotes STEM**  
**- shares practices and resources and**  
**- improves communications.**

**Learn more about the network at**

[MN STEM Network](#)

Please consider supporting SciMathMN

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## Calendar Highlights

**Youth Science Day**  
**Science Museum of Minnesota**  
**Thursday, July 17**  
**12 noon - 4pm**  
**120 W. Kellogg Blvd.**  
**St. Paul, MN 55102**

Youth Science Day celebrates our community's youth and their passion for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and

at the 5th annual STEM Day at the State Fair. Youth and families will be able to see and do:

- Experiments with color and light presented by the 3M Wizards
- An Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition robot presented by GO FIRST students at the University of Minnesota
- Heart models and cardiac rhythm devices presented by employees of Boston Scientific
- Testing the effectiveness of bone fracture stabilization devices created by Fair participants and exhibits of leading-edge fracture stabilization devices and other orthopedic devices, presented by MTS Systems Corp.
- A water pollution modeling demonstration presented by the American Public Works Association
- Plus a number of other exhibits such as the Exploradome from the Bell Museum of Natural History.

As in past years, there's more fun on the hour with stage performances. This year's performers include:

- Physics Force from the University of Minnesota
- Chemistry demonstrations from the University of Minnesota
- The Bakken Museum
- The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota

Please promote [STEM Day at the State Fair](#) to your audiences!

SciMathMN thanks our sponsors for their support for STEM Day. Platinum sponsor:



Gold sponsors:

Silver sponsors:

Math). This is an event made by and for young people! Hosted by young people from the Kitty Andersen Youth Science Center, this event showcases the Science Museum of Minnesota as a place for youth to join their peers in discovering and exploring an interest in STEAM and their future in a STEAM field!

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**Best Days of The Bakken**  
**Free admission - July 22 - 26**  
**The Bakken Museum**  
**3537 Zenith Avenue South**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55416**

The Bakken Museum is heating things up in 2014 with the new STEAM-themed Best Days! Coinciding with the Minneapolis Aquatennial, from July 22nd through July 26th, visitors will enjoy free admission and a bounty of fantastic programming! Each day will focus on a different part of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math), in hopes to further the community's interest in these important subjects.

[Link to event](#)



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**STEM Portal on Minnesota Compass**

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## MN STEM Network Annual Conference Highlights

The 5th annual MN STEM Network Conference was held on April 15th at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center. About 160 gathered to attend the keynote by Cindy Moss of Discovery Education which featured her work to close the achievement gap in math and science in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

Attendees also participated in breakout sessions which focused on examples of exemplary practices in engaging students in STEM and collaborating across sectors. Several were recorded and are posted on the [SciMathMN website](#).



An [online portal](#) for Minnesota STEM data and resources is now available on the website of Minnesota Compass, a community indicators project led by Wilder Research. Sponsored by Boston Scientific, the STEM section aims to answer:

- How does Minnesota fare on key measures of STEM success from PreK-mid career?
- What are best practices for supporting these measures?
- Are we making progress over time?

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**Iron Range STEM Showcase  
Featuring Mind Trekkers of  
Michigan Technological University  
Miners Memorial Building  
Virginia, MN**

**Friday, October 3**

9:00 - 11:30 and 12:00 - 2:30

Friday is reserved for 5th and 6th grade classes; reservations are currently full.

**Saturday, October 4**

9:00 - 4:00

Free admission and open to the public.

[Link to more information.](#)

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**Statewide Tour of  
Manufacturing  
October 23 - 25, 2014**

The afternoon plenary session featured informal discussions on Current Challenges in Advancing STEM Education and Workforce Development, via an open space technology format. In advance of the meeting and during the lunch hour, attendees posed questions on challenges they face in their work, and hosted these informal conversations. In this format, attendees move from one discussion to



another as interest dictates once they share their expertise or gain insights from

others on challenges relevant to them.

SciMathMN again thanks Boston Scientific for its ongoing support for the MN STEM Network conference.

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### **MSU-Mankato to Receive Award for its Latino Engineering Academic Day Program**

The American Public Works Association (APWA) recently named Minnesota State University, Mankato's Latino Engineering & Academic Day (LEAD) initiative as the winner of its 2014 Diversity Exemplary Practices Award, which recognizes individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to



Manufacturers across Minnesota will open their doors to youth and families so that they can see what the industries manufacture and how youth can prepare for future positions in manufacturing.

Tour groups will have the chance to:

- See STEM concepts in action
- Learn about high-tech machinery, like robots
- Get a hands-on look at how things we use every day are made
- Learn about growing and well-paid career opportunities in their backyard

Interested in participating?

[Visitourofmanufacturingmn.com](http://Visitourofmanufacturingmn.com) or contact Sandy Kashmark at [1-800-654-5773](tel:1-800-654-5773).

diversity.

Latino Engineering & Academic Day, a collaboration between MSU-Mankato and Bolten-Menk Engineering, has been held annually for the last six years on the Minnesota State Mankato campus. Its mission is to increase Latino high school students' access to higher education through a day of mentoring with engineering professionals, hands-on engineering demonstrations, Latino-specific college preparation workshops and much more.

It is the first time since the award was first presented in 1997 that it has been awarded to a Minnesota initiative or organization. It will be presented on Monday, August 18 in Toronto, Ontario, in conjunction with the 2014 International Public Works Congress and Exposition at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

LEAD also offers a mentoring program for students who express interest in learning more about engineering. LEAD organizers presented an overview of their program at the 2013 STEM Network conference.



The next LEAD program will take place on Tuesday, November 11, 2014. For more information, contact [Victoria Hidalgo](#).

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### Follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn

Follow [@MNSTEMNetwork](#) for the latest in STEM news and events.

Post announcements on [MN STEM Network group](#) on

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### Gear Up for the Jamboree Minnesota Dreams Girl Scout Jamboree 2015

**Jamboree STEM Day is  
Thursday, July 16, 2015  
9-11am and 2-4pm  
Call for Presenters**



Girl Scout leaders began planning the 2015 Jamboree 18 months ahead. Now the event is just 12 months away. Teri Michelson, the planner for the STEM day at the Jamboree, is recruiting STEM professionals to present a class, a session or speak to the audience of middle and high school girls at next year's Jamboree.

If interested, please contact [Teri Michelson](#) via email or at [763-248-1923](tel:763-248-1923).

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**Power of Afterschool: Successful Youth;  
Thriving Communities**

**Wednesday, August 6th, 9:30 - 2:00pm**

**Wood Lake Meeting Center, 210 Wood Lake Drive, Rochester**

Ignite Afterschool, the statewide network for afterschool programming, is hosting the Power of Afterschool, a convening in Southeastern Minnesota to strengthen afterschool and summer learning opportunities on August 6th. At this gathering, attendees will hear comments from the National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education, & Families on successfully coordinating afterschool programming in cities and communities. The meeting will feature working sessions on strengthening afterschool programming and networking time.

On May 28th, a similar meeting was held in Duluth to engage stakeholders in the Northeast region.

Register or contact Ignite  
Afterschool at  
[afterschoolpower.eventbrite.com](https://afterschoolpower.eventbrite.com)



## Regional STEM Network Updates

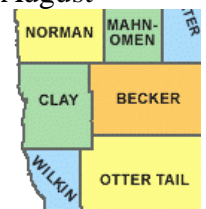
**Northeast**— On April 22 -24, Minnesota Discovery Center hosted the Iron Range Science and Engineering Festival as an affiliate event of the USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington. Now Northeast STEM colleagues are gearing up for the STEM Showcase featuring [Mind Trekkers of Michigan Technological University](#) which will be held on October 3-4 at the Miners Memorial Building in Virginia, MN. The program on Saturday, October 4 is open to the public. Also, the Engineering Advisory committee, a STEM network in the Iron Range, has become a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization: the Range Engineering Council. For more information on the events and the Council, contact: [Moe Benda](#).

**Headwaters**—An initial gathering for STEM stakeholders in the Bemidji/Cass Lake region was held on Thursday, March 27. Seventeen STEM stakeholders representing engineering firms, manufacturing, higher education, K12 education, museums, and government

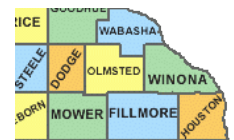


agencies met to discuss a potential network. The Leadership team is now forming. If interested in the regional network or its leadership team, contact: [Susan Joy](#) or [Annette Drewes](#).

**West Central**—The ad hoc committee plans to meet in August to develop a leadership team and a regional calendar and communications centered in Fargo/Moorhead. The effort is in collaboration with the North Dakota STEM Network. Contacts: [Doug Dean](#) or [Matt Craig](#).



**Southeast**—The Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce and the Rochester Area Math Science Partnership have collaborated to form the Rochester Area STEM Stewards. The networking group met for the second time in June. Students and teachers from the Century STEM Society presented about their organization, participants shared



updates, and attendees enjoyed networking time. Attendees represented K12 and higher education, business, non-profit and community organizations. The next meeting will be held August 20, 2014 at [Quarry Hill Nature Center](#). Attendees should RSVP to Jessi Strinmoen. Contacts: [Jessi Strinmoen](#), [Richard Bogovich](#)

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SciMathMN  
[www.scimathmn.org](http://www.scimathmn.org)  
Email: [info@scimathmn.org](mailto:info@scimathmn.org)

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SciMathMN  
c/o Humphrey School of Public Affairs  
130 Humphrey School, 301 19th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455  
US

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