

Join us for the 3rd Annual RAC-CEMS Educator Collaboration Event “Collaboration for Continuous Improvement of Teaching” on October 6 at the RMSC

This event is for educators at all levels (kindergarten through college) who are interested in improving the teaching of mathematics, science and technology in cooperation with the Rochester Area Colleges Center for Excellence in Math and Science. The Keynote Speaker is James W. Stigler, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at UCLA, The Keynote Speaker will be James W. Stigler, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at UCLA and Director of the TIMSS Video Studies. Dr. Stigler is best known for his observational work in classrooms, and has pioneered the use of multimedia technology for the study of classroom instruction. The conference will include an actual Japanese Lesson Study classroom observation as well as a focus on Professional Learning Communities. The winner of the Excellence in STEM Teaching Award will be announced and finalists will be recognized. For details and registration go to: <http://RACCEMS.org/Educators/collaboration2009/>

RAC-CEMS Sponsors STEM Summer Camperships for Economically Disadvantaged Youth

The Center is sponsoring over 30 economically disadvantaged youth entering grades 6 to 9 to go to 13 STEM summer camps this year. The camps are located in different parts of the Center’s 11-county service area. Some of them are in Canandaigua, Batavia, Ovid, Geneseo and Rochester. Topics included in these summer camps include Forensics, Astronomy, Computer Design, Biology, Chemistry, Math, Engineering, and Aerospace. Students are becoming exciting and engaged in fun hands-on activities and are learning that there is a whole lot more to science than textbooks and worksheets.

As part of this project, we’re initiating a regional study of summer camp quality. We hope to establish a coalition of STEM summer camps interested in improving the educational value of their camps. The Center will conduct a baseline study of STEM summer camps in our region. As a result, we will collaborate with an aim to developing a model for high-quality STEM informal summer education in order to improve the quality of the educational experience.



Second Finalist for Excellence in STEM Teaching Award

We are delighted to announce that Bob Dedrick, a secondary Earth and Environmental Science teacher at Canandaigua Academy, has been selected as the second finalist for the 2009 Excellence in STEM Teaching Award. Bob has been teaching for nine years and is known as an innovative teacher who is passionate about science and providing meaningful, engaging, and authentic learning experiences to his students.

The selection of Bob as a finalist recognizes the innovative approach he took in creating virtual field trips for his students through the use of Google

Earth, allowing them to make “virtual visits” to almost any spot on the globe. Bob has created several “virtual” field trips involving geologic and environmental features in Upstate New York to offset the decreasing resources traditional field trips. Students have also been able to draw upon this tool to strengthen their inquiry learning capabilities.

All finalists are awarded a \$2000 travel scholarship to the STEM education conference of their choice, complements of Wards Natural Science.



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STEM Mentoring Partnership Big Brothers Big Sisters

The Center for Excellence in Math and Science is excited to announce a new partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Rochester.

As of June 2009, the two organizations established a collaboration to provide mentor relationships between “Littles” who are interested in exploring the world of Math and Science and “Bigs” from the local community who want to share their own enthusiasm and experiences in STEM fields.

The Littles will be selected by the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization based on interviews among their client base while the “Bigs” will be drawn from volunteers from within local industry and academia.

The overall purpose of the partnership is to develop and administer a STEM Mentor program to increase the excitement and engagement of young people in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

The program will be modeled on the successful BBBSR’s mentoring model. Economically disadvantaged students in grades 4-8 with an expressed interest in STEM subjects or careers will be matched with community volunteers with a passion for science or math. After an orientation session jointly conducted by Center and BBBS, the STEM Mentors will meet weekly with their “little” share experiences including educational STEM activities. Experiences may include visits to the Rochester Museum and Science Center, Corning Museum of Glass, Cummins Nature Center, and Seneca Park Zoo. Individual activities will be developed based on the particular interests of the “Little” and experiences of the adult volunteer.

In addition to recruitment, screening, matching and orientation, the program will provide a lending library of STEM games, equipment and activities, free admission to local science-oriented attractions and several group activities for STEM Mentors and their “littles” throughout the year. To learn more about the STEM Mentors Program, contact Mike Waters at mwaters0@naz.edu.

Upcoming Events	
Aug. 3-5	Finger Lakes Ecology Institute, HWS
Aug. 10-13	MSTL Institute for K-6, Nazareth College
Aug. 18-21	MST Institute for 5-8 St. John Fisher College
Aug. 28-29	GLOBE Institute for 7-12, Alfred University
Every Saturday	Free telescope viewing at the RMSC
Oct. 6	RAC-CEMS Educator Collaboration Event

August 2009						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sat
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5