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K-16 STEM in the NEWS

It's About Discovery

"It's About Discovery" is a partnership between The Ohio State University at Lima and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro that engages high school students and their teachers in critical thinking skills focusing on STEM content areas. The Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies (PAS) new science curriculum is the foundation for the project that



includes students and teachers from Northwest Ohio and North Carolina. It's About Discovery participating teachers include science teachers in Paulding, Van Wert, Antwerp, Bath, and Perry high schools in northwest Ohio, and Douglas Byrd High School in North Carolina.

[\(read more\)](#)

Community STEM in the NEWS

The Toledo Zoo's Nature's Neighborhood Wins National Recognition

Three BGSU faculty members in NWO helped to make The Toledo Zoo's Nature's Neighborhood Exhibit an engaging experience for visitors. Now the popular inquiry-rich exhibit for young children has gained national recognition. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) recently presented Nature's Neighborhood Top Honors in exhibit design. The 2011 AZA Exhibit Award recognizes excellence in the area of live animal display and exhibit design by an AZA-accredited institution or related facility member. Drs. Jodi Haney, who has a joint appointment to the School of Teaching and Learning and the environment and sustainability department; Rick Worch, School of Teaching and Learning, and Amy Scheuermann, formerly with the School of Intervention Services, worked with the Toledo Zoo education team on the design and development of Nature's Neighborhood beginning in 2007. [\(read more\)](#)



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STEM Opportunities

NWO Monthly Inquiry Series Professional Development

December Topic: *What Is Inquiry and How Do I Use It in My Classroom?*

Presented by: Diane Burtchin & Michelle Shafer of Rossford Schools.

Date and Time: December 1, 2011 from 5:00 - 8:00 PM

Location: Rossford High School, 701 Superior Street, Rossford, OH 43460.

Registration Fee: \$15 for educators and administrators \$20 on-site and \$10 for undergraduate students

Register at: www.nwocenter.org/inquiryseries/index.htm.

Kids' Tech University (KTU) at Bowling Green State University!

A semester-long educational research program developed by the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute at Virginia Tech in partnership with the Virginia 4-H, that puts scientists and engineers in front of children to encourage the exploration of intriguing topics in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics is coming to BGSU. A 2012 Spring semester event is happening at BGSU for kids between the ages of 9 and 12, who live within a one-hour driving distance of BGSU. Online enrollment begins on December 5, 2011.

For enrollment information, please visit <http://kidstechuniversity-bgsu.vbi.vt.edu/> or contact Kathleen

Booher, 4-H Youth Development at booher.9@osu.edu Registration fee: \$25.00. Scholarships are available. [Click here](#) to download a flyer.

Nominations Now Open for Mathematics and Science Teaching Awards

The nomination deadline for the 2012 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is April 1, 2012. The awards program recognizes teachers for their contributions to science and mathematics teaching and their ability to help students progress in knowledge of the two subjects. This year's nominations are restricted to kindergarten through grade 6 teachers. Visit <http://www.paemst.org/controllers/nomination.cfc?method=nominate> for details and to access nomination materials. If you have questions, contact Patty Griffin at patty.griffin@ode.state.oh.us.

Humane Society of the United States Announces Education Mini-Grant Program

The [Humane Society of the United States](#) is accepting applications for its new Humane Education Mini-Grant program, which funds innovative humane education projects in K-12 classrooms. The mini-grant may be used to pay for supplies or materials necessary for students to create a product, conduct an experiment, or learn a new skill through service-learning and community outreach. A maximum of \$1,000 will be awarded for each classroom project. Visit the [Humane Society Web site](#) for complete program guidelines and the application form.

Apply Today for an Einstein Fellowship

Applications are now being accepted for the 2012 Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship program. If selected, Einstein fellows spend a school year in Washington, DC, sharing their expertise as a fellow in one of several government agency offices, such as the Department of Energy, NASA, the National Science Foundation, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or in the office of a member of Congress. The **application deadline is January 5, 2012**. To learn more about the program and to apply, visit www.einsteinfellows.org or e-mail: einsteinfellows@triangle-coalition.org.

NWOET 21st Century GOOGLE Training Series: Designing Web Sites with

Google Sites

Dates:

Mon., Dec. 12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Mon., Jan. 9, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Thurs., Feb. 16, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Thurs., Mar. 15, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Location: NWOET Tech Lab in Bowling Green, OH

Professional Development Fees: Comp Members: \$129, Basic Members: \$149, Non-Members: \$259

To Register: call NWOET, 800-966-9638

WGTE Educational Resource Center Professional Development Google Docs/Tools to Support Project Based Learning

Tuesday, December 6 from 4-7pm. Members: \$70, Basic or Non-Members \$100.

Location: WGTE Public Media, 1270 S. Detroit in Toledo

To Register: Email erc@wgte.org, call 419-380-4633 or visit <http://www.wgte.org/education>

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NWO Hands-On STEM Activity

Thanksgiving Day Parades and Balloon Science

In 1927, the Thanksgiving Day Parade, sponsored by the New York City department store Macy's, introduced giant balloons for the first time. In 1927, a Felix The Cat balloon and others were inflated with air and guided along the parade route. In 1928, helium was used for inflating to keep balloons floating high above the spectators. That year, parade planners decided to release the balloons into the sky after the parade. It hadn't occurred to anyone that helium expands at higher altitudes and as science would have it - the balloons burst.

The next year, balloons were designed with a safety valve to allow the helium to escape slowly. Prizes were given to people who found and returned the balloons to Macy's. This created quite a commotion with people competing to capture the balloons and eventually Macy's stopped the practice of releasing them in the interest of public safety.



The following two experiments allow students to use another gas to inflate balloons - carbon dioxide (CO_2). This activity can be used to meet Ohio revised science standards for Grades 3,4,6,7, and 9.

Download a pdf of the complete hands-on activity by [clicking here!](#)

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STEM Education Updates

Thank you for your support of NWO, our programs, our activities, and our partners. Please send us updates, press releases, and news of STEM happenings at your school, district, or organization. Please submit to nwo@bgsu.edu. We are always looking for great STEM education stories to feature in upcoming newsletters.

Join us on [Facebook](#)

And please visit our new STEM clearinghouse, nwostemresources.org, for more STEM activities, programs, and information.

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