



WSST October IMPACT

What's new

The time has once again arrived to nominate a deserving educator for one of WSST's five awards: The Frank Zuerner New Teacher Scholarship, Friend of Science, Excellence in Science Education, Ron Gibbs and Administrator Award (new this year). Visit www.wsst.org and click on the awards tab to find out more information on these awards. Visit <https://goo.gl/VMZK8I> to head right to the nominations page.

Professional Development

Groundwater Sand Tank Model Workshop

Free groundwater sand tank models and workshops are again being offered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Center for Watershed Science and Education (CWSE) and Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (WGNHS). To be eligible, two educators from a school or nature center must complete the application form and attend a one - day workshop. Applications are due November 6, 2015. This year workshops will be held: January 13, 2016, at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station, Amherst Junction, WI; January 27, 2016, at the WGNHS Core Lab, Mount Horeb, WI; and February 10, 2016 at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, Ashland, WI. Materials provided target grades 6 - 12. Reimbursement for substitute teachers will be available. To view the complete workshop announcement and download the application, go to: <http://dnr.wi.gov/education/educatorresources/groundwater/> . For more information contact Laura Chern (608-266-0126 and Laura.Chern@wi.gov).

If your school does not have one of these models, make an effort to round up one other staff member to attend one of these with you; it is one of the best visual model I have in the classroom and the training is done by USGS and DNR groundwater experts.

WI SCIfest

Make connections, have fun, and get inspired by all the cool science opportunities across the State of Wisconsin this October 22-25. There really is something for everyone. Stop by Bayfield's Science Fest Night, enjoy workshops and mad machines in Steven's Point,

or stop by Ashland for the science of making music with violins and flutes. Check out the full program guide at WI Sci Fest and search by city, age range, etc. for science events you will enjoy.

There are plenty of opportunities to support your roles as leaders in science education with space remaining for field trips and professional learning workshops. All of the Madison based workshops are free thanks to support by sponsors of the WI Science Festival. Check out the keywords below to get a glimpse of the authors and world leaders in science that want to support you in your work in your schools.

Click on the link to register for workshops: <https://warf.wufoo.com/forms/2015-wi-sci-fest-teacher-workshop-registration/>

Activity

Looking for a way to get your students outside more often? Do you also want them to journal about the outdoors relating things you have discussed in class to their journal? Or, maybe you simply want your science students writing more to accomplish a school/district goal of in-content writing. Try this One Spot activity to get your students interested in being outside...even when the weather isn't 85 degrees and sunny!

1. Make sure they have a notebook, writing utensil and a phone with a decent camera.
2. Students head outside and pick a spot with some natural appeal
3. Once their spot is picked, they document "their" area with a photo
4. After that, they journal about whatever guidelines you set (ideas could include: reading the corresponding month in Leopold's A Sand County Almanac in class and have them focus their writing attention on that topic, linking topics learned in class to their journal or simply letting them free write—the possibilities are really endless). Use any scoring rubric you see fit; your English Department will likely be very willing to share ideas if you are drawing a blank.
5. Head inside after your specified time frame
6. Repeat #'s 1-5 as often as you like (once a week works well to see change seasonally)
7. Students can hand in the pictures with their journals or you can have them make a Vine video with their pictures to make something really visually appealing.

Resources

USGS Water Science School: <http://water.usgs.gov/edu/> They also have bookmarks available for free if you email hperlman@usgs.gov

Another good activity to use if you are spending any amount of time on water resources is making a model of how water treatment plants purify the water that comes through it. Check out here: <http://goo.gl/j36vhi>

Lab Out Loud

If you have not had a chance to listen to Lab Out Loud, please do as the hosts are 2 of WSST's members! Lab Out Loud is a podcast, that discusses science news and science education by interviewing leading scientists, researchers, science writers and other important figures in the field. The latest episode of Lab Out Loud is titled Good Thinking! from @SmithonianSci. You can listen to it by following this link.

Conferences

Make sure to check out the 2016 WSST Conference page: <https://wsst.wildapricot.org/page-1828344> This is already shaping up to be another fantastic LaCrosse conference!

Opportunities

Student Opportunity for Environmental Health and Engineering @ UW Oshkosh!

Would your 7th and 8th grade students like to “Explore Environmental Health and Engineering”? They will be able to spend a day in UW Oshkosh laboratories to learn about exciting topics in environmental health and engineering, such as insects and public health, epidemics, and water quality and well construction! With hands-on learning strategies, students will learn how environmental health professionals/engineers make sure what we breathe, touch, eat and drink are safe. The event will take place on Saturday, April 9, 2016 from 8-noon in Halsey Science Center, on the UW Oshkosh campus. A multi-day academy on Environmental Health and Engineering for 9th and 10th grade students will also take place in July 2016. See the web link for more information.

See www.uwosh.edu/lce/conted/youth/environmental-health-engineering for registration information and details.

Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship (AEF) Program

Accepting Applications for 2016-2017 Fellowship Year Application Deadline: Nov. 19, 2015, at 8 p.m. EST The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship (AEF) Program provides a unique opportunity for accomplished K-12 science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) educators to serve 11 months in a Federal agency or U.S. Congressional office. Einstein Fellows bring their extensive classroom knowledge and experience to their host offices to inform Federal STEM education efforts.

Past Einstein Fellows have:

Designed and implemented national STEM education programs.

Built partnerships among Federal agencies.

Drafted legislation seeking to improve U.S. K-12 education and teacher preparation.

Evaluated national STEM programs centered on school reform.

Designed and deployed digital and online learning tools for students and teachers.

To be eligible, applicants must be U.S. citizens who are currently employed full time in a U.S. public or private elementary or secondary school or school district. Applicants must have been teaching full time in a public or private elementary or secondary school for at least five of the last seven years in a STEM discipline. Current sponsoring agencies include the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In addition to sponsoring placements at DOE headquarters, DOE sponsors up to four placements in U.S. congressional offices.

The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program is managed by the DOE Office of Science's Office of Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists, in collaboration with the sponsoring agencies and the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). Program applications are due Nov. 19, 2015, at 8 p.m. EST and must be submitted through an online application system. Additional information about the program, including eligibility requirements, program benefits, application requirements and access to the online application system may be found at <http://science.energy.gov/wdts/einstein/>.

WSST membership

I have this great membership to WSST to attend the annual conference, but what else does WSST have to offer me with my membership?

Belonging to a professional organization allows you to network with other science teachers from around the state by joining WSST's listserv, directions can be found by clicking on listserv. Also, if your district or share group are in need of some small funds for science gatherings, being a WSST member entitles you to request money for these purposes. Be advised, request early as many share groups and "science nights" are hosted each year throughout the state.

This month's IMPACT was written by Jason Brazzale (jdbrazzale@gmail.com), WSST District 2 Director. Jason teaches biology, human anatomy/physiology, environmental science and biotechnology at Prescott HS. He is also the advisor for our HS bass and ice fishing teams. Any teacher looking at forming an ice fishing or open water fishing club should email him with questions about forming these worthwhile and fun clubs.

