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STEAM NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY (DoIT) STEAM EDUCATION GROUP

Back at Headquarters

Illinois Finalist in State IT Recognition Awards

"The National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) has selected 30 finalists across 10 categories for the State IT Recognition Awards. Projects and initiatives from NASCIO member states and territories were eligible for nomination. Over 60 NASCIO members served as volunteer judges to review the over 110 submissions, narrowing the nominees down to three finalists in each category. From these finalists, a recipient from each category will be announced during the NASCIO Annual Conference in October.

The award nominations showcase the use of information technology to address critical business problems, more easily connect citizens to their government, improve business processes and create new opportunities that improve the lives of citizens."

The Illinois Drive-up Wi-Fi Map is one of three finalists in the "Cross-Boundary Collaboration & Partnerships" category.   In March 2020, staff in multiple state agencies in Illinois worked collaboratively with public and nonpublic organizations to initiate, develop, and launch an interactive Wi-Fi hotspot map to help students and staff find free, drive-up internet access. The "Drive-up Wi-Fi Map" pinpoints geographic locations across Illinois that offer internet connectivity options for students at no charge, along with site-specific log-in and troubleshooting information. The interactive map is available in English and Spanish highlighting over 350 hotspot locations in parking lots at anchor locations throughout the state.

Let off some STEAM with these fun activities!

K - 4

NASA: MAKE A MOON CRATER

5 - 8

VIRTUAL TOURS OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL LABORATORIES

9 -12

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE "THE ROUND BARN PODCAST"

Educator's Corner

STEAM resources for in-person, hybrid, remote learning, and professional development

- STEM Teacher Leadership Network

- Learning Technology Center: Free CS curriculum provided by Code.org

- New institute backed by National Science Foundation to explore AI's role in education

- How Birdbrain Technologies® is inspiring a sense of wonder in one teacher's after-school and summer programs

- U.S. Department of Education "Return to School Roadmap"

News & Events

University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine Open House

In person event 10am to 4pm on Sunday, October 3, 2021
Visit the 2020 virtual Open House now!

2021 Illinois State Fair
Tech Prairie STEAM Expo
Videos & Resources

Springfield, IL - The Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology (DoIT) debuted the first Tech Prairie STEAM Expo at the 2021 Illinois State Fair in August. DoIT was honored to host public universities, K-12 technology educators, Illinois businesses, and more outstanding exhibitors, sponsors, and collaborators! Check out videos from the Expo's Drone Racing and eSports competitions and more on the DoIT STEAM Expo website!

Do you have suggestions for next year's STEAM Expo? Click here to contact us.

New: Report from the National Science Foundation

Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering

"*Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering* provides statistical information about the participation of these three groups in science and engineering education and employment. Its primary purpose is to serve as a statistical abstract with no endorsement of or recommendations about policies or programs. National Science Foundation reporting on this topic is mandated by the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (Public Law 96-516)."

Northern Illinois University STEM Fest 2021
Saturday, October 23

"Save the date! The 2021 STEM Fest Celebration is in person at the NIU DeKalb Campus on Saturday, October 23! We're also planning special STEM Fest virtual events throughout October. Sign up for our newsletter for detailed updates."

NASA TechRise Student Challenge
ENTRIES DUE: 11:59 PM (PT) November 3, 2021

"The NASA TechRise Student Challenge invites teams of sixth to 12th-grade students to design, build, and launch experiments on suborbital rockets and balloon flights during the upcoming 2021/2022 school year. Participants will submit ideas for climate or remote-sensing experiments to fly on a high-altitude balloon, or space exploration experiments to fly aboard a suborbital rocket.

The winning teams will each receive $1,500 to build their payloads and be awarded an assigned spot on a NASA-sponsored commercial suborbital flight."

STEAM Resource Spotlight

ALL IN STEM - PROGRAMS & RESOURCES FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

"Diversity and inclusion in the STEM workforce produces better results, is a moral imperative, and is a mission imperative. America's STEM needs are enormous, and we need an "all-hands-on-deck" approach to fill them.

For the sake of our energy security, our economic security, and our national security, we must draw upon all of America's available talent and ability, across every part of society. Learn about the ways the U.S. Department of Energy is ensuring a diverse and inclusive energy workforce of today and tomorrow in our resources below. You can sort the chart by audience level and category to find resources especially geared to you."

The Autumnal Equinox and more: learn from Chicago's own Adler Planetarium

"Stay connected with the museum, with science and astronomy, with our universe—and with each other—exactly where you are. We have space for everyone."

Find online resources, virtual fieldtrips, online sky-watches, events, and more from the Adler Planetarium!"

The 'A' in STEAM

News from Columbia College Chicago

Photo Credit: Christopher Rohrbeck

Christopher Rohrbeck '19 Uses Science to Inform His Films

"Christopher Rohrbeck '19 grew up surrounded by both sciences and the arts. While his family has always been creative and has had a passion for the arts, Rohrbeck made it a goal to build a career in the arts.

Rohrbeck was able to tie his Biology minor to his Cinema and Television Arts major while at Columbia." Read more about Rohrbeck and his connection with STEAM here.

🌐 www.illinois.gov/doit-steam

🐦 Follow DoIT on Twitter @IllinoisDoIT

✉ Please submit STEAM ideas, comments, or questions using our contact us form.