

E-Blast # 2 January 2011

The 2011 return of NSTA to New Orleans is a compliment to the wonderful experience science educators had during the 2009 National event in Louisiana.

Over the past three months science educators have been submitted session proposal in one of four categories...a general field or one of the three strands selected for this conference:

- Crafting a College-ready and Career STEM Workforce for the Future
- Leveraging Resources to Enhance 21st-Century Learning
- Sustaining Science Success for All Students

LSTA invites you to be part of the 2011 NSTA Louisiana conference team. At this time we are about to begin reviewing the session proposals to select those that best fit the three strands and the general category. The entire process is done online and can be completed in the evening or on weekends, as your schedule allows.

NSTA expects about 300 proposals and each one will need to be read by a minimum of two people. Please let us know which strand you and any of your colleagues would like to volunteer to work with. You may have already committed to read and score.

GREAT!!!!

To offer you assistance send an email to jean.may-brett@la.gov. Please put "2011 NSTA Conference" in the subject line.

For information on each of the following educational offers and resources please visit the LSTA website at: http://www.lsta.info/eblasts/2011/eblast_january_2011_2.pdf . Select the E-Blast button from the menu on the home page and then click on the January #2 link.

1. Grant for STEM Education - Deadline February 1, 2011
2. Yale-Lynn Hall Teacher Action Research Prize! – Deadline February 1st
3. Agriculture Scholarship Opportunity for HS Seniors –Deadline February 15th
4. Lowe's Toolbox for Education - Deadline February 18th
5. International Young Eco-Hero Awards program – Deadline February 28th
6. EE Commission's electronic newsletter &Teacher Grants - Deadline March 15th
7. SUN-EARTH DAY 2011: ANCIENT MYSTERIES: FUTURE DISCOVERIES
8. World War II Museum Student Essay Contest Deadline March 31st
9. Google Science Fair Deadline April 4th
10. 2011 AAAS Leadership in Science Education for H S Teachers Deadline May 27th
11. LPB Dinosaur Train Geocaching
12. NSTA Learning Center Free teaching resources
13. Resources to Help Girls Succeed in Math and Science
14. Gulf of Mexico Foundation field experience opportunities
15. Celebrate the International Year of Chemistry

1. Grant for STEM Education Deadline is February 1, 2011

The American Honda Foundation makes grants to K–12 schools, colleges, universities, trade schools and other youth-focused nonprofit organizations for programs that are imaginative, creative, youthful, forward thinking, scientific, humanistic and innovative. Youth education should focus specifically in the areas of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, the environment, job training and literacy. Organizations may submit only one request in a 12-month period. The grant range is from \$20,000 to \$60,000 over a one-year period. Proposals should be submitted online. The deadline is February 1, 2011 for May 1, 2011 award. Please visit: <http://corporate.honda.com/america/philanthropy.aspx?id=ahf&>

2. Apply for the Yale-Lynn Hall Teacher Action Research Prize! Deadline- February 1st
Go to <http://community.som.yale.edu/education/prize.php> for more information

The Contest

The Yale School of Management Education Club is pleased to announce the 2nd Annual Yale-Lynn Hall Teacher Action Research Prize in 2011. Tell us about how you try to better reach and engage your students. What change did you make? How do you know it worked? Interventions can be over a few weeks or a unit; they need not be a long or formal experiment.

The Prize

Win \$1000 plus the opportunity to be a featured panelist at the Yale Education Leadership Conference. The winner will receive complimentary conference registration, a travel stipend, and VIP seating with other education reformer panelists.

What is Teacher Action Research?

Action research is a method of teacher professional development that empowers teachers to solve problems and improve their practice. The goal is that teachers are continually assessing their work and striving to improve it. Teacher action research challenges teachers to systematically collect meaningful data and use it to evaluate and better their teaching practice.

Why Teacher Action Research?

Teacher action research challenges teachers to systematically collect meaningful data and use it to evaluate and better their teaching practice, as well as share their findings to achieve broader education reform. Involving teachers in research engages teachers as experts in their own classrooms and gives them voice as education reformers. It empowers teachers to adapt their practice to evolving classrooms, continually develop as professionals, and define what data matters in their classrooms. Currently, few opportunities for teachers to publish their research exist.

Any current Pre-kindergarten to 12th grade teacher or team of teachers is eligible to apply for the Yale-Lynn Hall Teacher Action Research Prize. Full-time after-school

educators are also invited to submit action research.

To submit research, please e-mail paper or slides (in pdf format) to:

YaleTeacherActionResearchPrize@gmail.com

- February 1, 2011: RESEARCH SUBMISSIONS DUE
 - February 2-14: First-round evaluation
 - February 15-28: Final found evaluation
 - March 1: Inform winners.
 - March 25, 2011: 1st prize winner will give summary of research at Education Leadership Conference ; Publish winning research on Conference website and disseminate to conference attendees and
- The prize will also be awarded for the 2012 Yale Education Leadership Conference, so get started now on research to submit this year or next!

3. Agriculture Scholarship Opportunity for HS Seniors

The National FFA Organization awards approximately \$2 million in scholarships designed to fit the diversity of their applicants. The 2011 Scholarship Application and a host of Helpful Tools are available at: <http://www.ffa.org> click the Scholarship balloon or select Programs, then Scholarships. FFA's three top scholarship sponsors are Ford, Cargill and Monsanto. Review eligibility requirements in the 2011 Guidebook, also available at www.ffa.org.

Online applications must be submitted online by 5:00 p.m. EST Feb. 15, 2011. A completed signature page postmarked no later than Feb. 22, 2011, is required in order to be eligible.

4. For more information please contact Teri Buchholtz at 317-802-4419.

The Lowe's Toolbox for Education offers grants to schools and parent/teacher groups across the United States. School projects should encourage parent involvement and build stronger community ties. The next deadline for application is **February 18, 2011**. For information and application, go to <http://www.toolboxforeducation.com>.

5. Action for Nature seeks applications from students 8-16 for its International Young Eco-Hero Awards program. The awards program recognizes the individual accomplishments of young people whose personal actions have significantly improved the environment. Projects must concern advocacy, environmental health, research, or protection of the natural world. The deadline for application is **February 28, 2011**.

http://www.actionfornature.org/?page_id=190

6. Introducing the LA Environmental Education Commission's NEW electronic newsletter!

Previously, you received these announcements via email from Venise Ortego, Environmental Education Coordinator. With such an overwhelming response in additions to our listserv, we decided it was time to utilize a more efficient means of communication. Please look for our electronic newsletter and be sure to add this email address to your safe list so that future emails do not get caught in your spam filter. Visit us online at www.wlf.louisiana.gov/eec for more information on upcoming environmental education opportunities.

LA EE Commission Educator Grants

Based on sound scientific principles, have an environmental focus, use effective practices, and be designed to directly improve student performance
Amount not to exceed \$1,000 for 1 educator, \$2,000 for 2 or more educators jointly
Deadline: March 15, 2011

For more information on these grants and application forms, go to the website at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/grant-opportunities>.

7. SUN-EARTH DAY 2011: ANCIENT MYSTERIES: FUTURE DISCOVERIES (March 20, 2011)

Sun-Earth Day is a combination of events and programs that occur through the year, ending with a grand Sun-Earth Day celebration on or near the Spring Equinox in March. This year's theme will be "Ancient Mysteries: Future Discoveries," and will focus on examining early civilizations who created structures containing solstice and equinox alignments, as well as exploring how humankind continues to observe the Sun from the ground and space. Many resources will be available for Sun-Earth Day participation, including video and webcast programming (created by the NASA EDGE team). The Sun-Earth Day website will also feature resources for educators, museums, community groups and amateur astronomers, as well as resources from past Earth-Sun Days. Educators can also register on the website to receive a free folder of materials (while supplies last). To learn more, please visit: <http://sunearthday.nasa.gov>

8. The National World War II Museum is pleased to announce the theme for its 2011 Student Essay Contest: *Why should we remember Pearl Harbor?*

The contest has two entry divisions: Middle School (grades 5–8) and High School (grades 9–12). Winners in each division receive a cash prize and recognition on the Museum website.

As in years past, the Museum does not want research papers. Students' essays will be judged foremost for their originality, clarity of expression and adherence to contest theme, as well as their historical accuracy, grammar, spelling and punctuation. WWII Museum staff will read and evaluate entries.

All essays must be submitted through the Museum Essay Contest web page. No essays will be accepted through the mail. Deadline March 31, 2011

Visit www.nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests for complete details.

9. Google has partnered with NASA, CERN, National Geographic, Scientific American and the LEGO Group to create a new STEM competition that is more open, accessible and global than ever before. They are reaching out to educators to inform them that “the Google Science Fair is coming” and to extend an invitation to schools and teachers to get involved early in our global competition.

To sign up for fun and free resource kits for your classroom or school (with bookmarks, stickers, posters and more!) and a reminder notification when GSF registration opens, please visit the

Google Science Fair at: <http://www.google.com/sciencefair>

The Google Science Fair is a global competition that **any student aged 13 - 18** from around the world is eligible to enter. Students can enter as individuals or as teams of up to three. There is no entry fee and registration and submission will happen online. The deadline for submissions will be **April 4, 2011**. The Science Fair will culminate in a “once in a lifetime” celebratory event at Google headquarters in California in July 2011 where finalists will compete for internships, scholarships and prizes in front of a panel of celebrity scientist judges.

10. Nominate an Innovative High School Science Teacher

Calling all U.S. high school science department chairs and administrators: It's time to nominate teachers for the 2011 AAAS Leadership in Science Education Prize for High School Teachers. The \$1,000 prize honors a high school science teacher who has advanced science education by developing and implementing an effective strategy, activity, or program. The winner will also receive a complimentary one-year institutional subscription to Science magazine and will be invited to attend and make a brief presentation at the annual Shanghai International Forum on Science Literacy of Pre-college Students as a guest of the Shanghai Association for Science and Technology.

To access prize details, nomination forms, and application forms, please visit:

http://www.aaas.org/aboutaaas/awards/hs_scied_leadership/

For more information, contact Barbara Goldstein. Deadline: May 27, 2011.

11. Dinosaur Train Geocaching

The Jim Henson Company has enlisted the help of PBS stations, museums, zoos, and aquariums nationwide to hide Dinosaur Train themed geocaches.

Geocaching is a family friendly outdoor adventure that blends technology, gaming and environmental discovery. Each geocache features one of the dinosaurs found on the online Dinosaur Train Field Guide and contains educational information related to that dinosaur. Ellen W. Wydra, the LPB Education Director, reports that she has hidden the Louisiana Public Broadcasting Dinosaur Train Les. Coordinates are available at:

www.geocaching.com .

With the help of a GPS enabled device, each geocache will lead you to a safe, easy-to-

access location. Visit www.geocaching.com and use keywords: PBS; Dinosaur Train; or station call letters to access an up-to-date list of Dinosaur Train geocache locations. Visit the website for Dinosaur Train Geocaching updates and instructions on how to make and hide your own Dinosaur Train geocache.

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/dinosaurtrain/geocachingchallenge>

12. Highlights of the NSTA Learning Center. This resource is available free to all teachers of science though NSTA members do have more resources available to them. Free lesson plans are available. First go to the Learning Center (<http://learningcenter.nsta.org/>).

Then click on "[See all FREE Lesson Plans](#)" NSTA as many filters to lead you right to your area of interest. You can sort by grade level and curriculum (Earth Science, Life Science, etc) or price (NSTA non-members will want to use this). The resources have a short abstract with them so in a matter of minutes, you can locate something for your classroom. You also could click on the "collections created by users" or the "collection created by NSTA" to find even more resources. In this new year, check out some valuable lesson plan ideas.

13. Help Girls Succeed in Math and Science

Braincake is a program of science-oriented activities, contests, games and experiments from The Girls Math & Science Partnership, which is part of the Carnegie Science Center, one of the four Carnegie Museums in Pittsburgh. Braincake is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, The Heinz Endowments and the Jewish Women's Foundation, among others. Please visit:

<http://www.braincake.org/>

Showcase Women in Science

STEM Stories is a collection of short videos and personal stories that showcase women's careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The site, aimed at girls in grades 4–8, challenges stereotypes about women in STEM and provides role models for young girls interested in pursuing a career in STEM. The site is based on work supported by the NSF National Science Digital Library program. Please visit:

<http://www.stemstories.org/>

14. Calling all K-12 Teachers and Informal Educators! Are you interested in a spring break or summer expedition? The Gulf of Mexico Foundation is currently accepting applications for its two teacher expeditions:

the Down Under, Out Yonder (DUOY) and the Intracoastal Waterway Wetlands Expedition (IWWE) which promise to offer more than just professional development but a true adventure in hands-on learning.

Down Under, Out Yonder (July 9-13, 2011): By having teachers dive into the depths of the Gulf above the Flower Garden Banks and explore the coral reef habitats below, the

Gulf of Mexico Foundation provides teachers phenomenal underwater experiences by awakening their senses of adventure and exploration, in turn helping generations of students connect with their natural environment.

Intracoastal Waterway Wetlands Expedition (NEW Spring Break Trip! March 13-18, 2011 / Summer Trip: June 19-24, 2011): Through exploration of diverse habitats and communities along the Gulf coast, our newest training program to the Gulf of Mexico Foundation, the IWWE makes clear the importance of balancing both the environment and the economy to its teacher participants through engaging hand-on activities.

For applications and information on these expeditions, please visit our workshop web page at <http://www.gulfmex.org/teachers.htm>

15. Celebrate the International Year of Chemistry

The theme of the International Year of Chemistry 2011 is “Chemistry – our life, our future.” The goals of this year of global celebration are to:

- 1) Increase the public appreciation of chemistry
- 2) Increase the interest of young people in chemistry
- 3) Generate enthusiasm for the creative future of chemistry
- 4) Celebrate the 100th anniversary of Madame Curie’s Nobel Prize and the 100th anniversary of the founding of the International Association of Chemical Societies.

Check out all the excitement at the International Year of Chemistry website at <http://www.chemistry2011.org>

"Periodic Table of Videos" Hosts Visit *Lab Out Loud*

To kick off the International Year of Chemistry, [Lab Out Loud](#) talks with Dr. Martyn Poliakoff and Dr. Samantha Tang from The Periodic Table of Videos. Having completed all videos for all 118 elements, the team is working on updating every element video while adding other videos, including molecular videos and chemical definition videos. Drs. Poliakoff and Tang talk to *Lab Out Loud* about upcoming events in the International Year of Chemistry and their work with The Periodic Table of Videos.