

E-Blast # 2 November 2011

### LOUISIANA YOUNG HEROES COMPETITION UNDERWAY

Nominations are now being taken for the 2012 Louisiana Young Heroes Awards. Students must be enrolled in a Louisiana school or homeschooled and cannot be older than 19 years of age. Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, the awards honor students in grades 7-12 who have excelled in the classroom, have served their community or have shown great courage in overcoming adversity in their own lives.

Some of our previous Young Heroes have overcome physical handicaps, raised money for charity, cared for family members, assisted hurricane victims, and even saved lives. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the LPB website ([www.lpb.org/heroes](http://www.lpb.org/heroes)) or submitted through the online form. Letters of recognition and other supporting materials should be sent to support the nomination. The deadline for entries is February 3, 2012.

Louisiana Young Heroes Day will be April 18, 2012. The Young Heroes will be treated to a day full of activities including lunch on the grounds of the Governor's Mansion. The day will culminate in a banquet that night Baton Rouge. For more information, call Margaret Schlaudecker at (800) 272-8161, ext. 4276.

Information on the items shown here is found below the list.

1. PASCO STEM Educator Awards, Deadline November 30
2. The DiscoverE Educator Awards! Deadline December 1
3. St Charles Fourth ***A Wetland's Revéillon***, December 4
4. Vernier Technology Research Study closes December 9<sup>th</sup>
5. EPA Teacher Awards, Deadline December 30
6. Whole Kids Foundation & FoodCorps School Garden Grants, Deadline December 31
7. 2011 OPTIMUS PRIME Spinoff Video Contest Registration Deadline January 3
8. 2012 AmeriCorps Grants Deadline January 18
9. New Student Experiments Opp. on Int'l Space Station Deadline February 27
10. EngineerGirl! Essay Contest for Youth Now Open for Entries Deadline March 1
11. Gr PK-5: Take Me Fishing for FREE
12. Gr 4-6: Siemens Science Day
13. LSU AgCenter Aquaculture Research Station Field Day May 2
14. New Freebies from Sid and Dinosaur Train
15. CYBERCHASE Launches Multi-Media Math Site for ages 8 to 11
16. More information about the Next Generation Science Standards
17. Gr PK-1: National Geographic for Little Kids
18. Gr K-3: New Early Childhood Lessons from Facing the Future
19. Gr 3-5: Inspire Future Engineers
20. AGI Boosts STEM Education with NASA Triad Site
21. World War II Museum's virtual field trip videoconferences and workshops
22. Calendar

1. PASCO STEM Educator Awards <http://www.pasco.com/STEMawards>

In partnership with the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), PASCO® is proud to announce the PASCO STEM Educator Awards to recognize excellence and innovation among STEM educators at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The PASCO STEM Educator Awards will recognize a total of five educators annually with an award totaling approximately \$4,500, including a \$1,000 cash award and a \$2,000 certificate for PASCO products to further support their STEM program. Each winner will also receive up to \$1,500 for travel expenses to attend the NSTA national conference, participate in a STEM “share-a-thon” workshop, and be recognized at the NSTA Awards Banquet. The deadline to apply is November 30, 2011.

2. The DiscoverE Educator Awards! Deadline December 1

The DiscoverE Educator Awards are shining a spotlight on the educators who are inspiring tomorrow's innovation generation. Winners will be recognized at event in Washington DC (all expenses paid), receive \$2,000, and a 3M digital projector. Unique to this program, engineers and engineering students are part of the nomination process. The application is available at <http://www.eweek.org/NewsStory.aspx?ContentID=256> and the deadline is December 1. Send completed applications to [info@eweek.org](mailto:info@eweek.org)

3. On Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011, from 5-8 PM, the Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Administration Course at the St. Charles Satellite Center will be hosting its fourth **annual A Wetland's Réveillon** at the Destrehan Plantation Mule Barn in Destrehan, Louisiana. The event is a gala with live entertainment by Amanda Shaw, over 50 silent auction items, and food catered by the Satellite Center's Culinary Art's team members. Proceeds from the event will help build nature trails in the newly-built Wetland Watcher's Park located in the LaBranche Wetlands. Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$50 at the door and can be purchased by calling (985) 764 -8785 or by visiting the Destrehan Gift Shop. If you would like additional information on the event, please visit [www.awetlandsreveillon.org](http://www.awetlandsreveillon.org).

4. Vernier is conducting a research study to better understand our customers and their needs for technology in the classroom. This is your opportunity to speak directly to the product development staff at Vernier.

The survey should take you approximately five minutes to complete.

You'll be asked questions about:

- Your title, subjects you teach, and basic demographics
- Your communication preferences
- The platforms you use to collect data
- New products you would like to see Vernier develop

To thank you for answering this survey, we would like to enter you into a drawing for a \$100 Amazon gift certificate. Three winners will be selected. If you would like to be included in the drawing, please enter your contact information at the end of the survey. The survey closes December 9th. Winners will be notified by December 31st.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Vernier>

5. EPA Teacher Awards <http://epa.gov/education/teacheraward/index.html>

The deadline to apply is December 30, 2011.

The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is proud to announce the 2011-2012 Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators. This program recognizes outstanding K-12 teachers who employ innovative approaches to environmental education and use the environment as a context for learning for their students. Two teachers from each EPA Region will be selected to receive this award.

The awardee teacher will receive an award of \$2,000, to be used to further the awardee's professional development in environmental education, as well as a commemorative plaque. An award of \$2,000 will be given to the awardee's local education agency to fund environmental educational activities and programs that support the awardee teacher (but not for construction costs, general expenses, salaries, bonuses, or other administrative expenses).

6. Whole Kids Foundation & FoodCorps School Garden Grants Deadline: December 31

The Whole Kids Foundation and partner FoodCorps offer \$2,000 grants, along with curriculum, resources and mentorship, to 1,000 schools. FoodCorps' expertise in gardening and its ongoing support will help schools build and sustain their gardens to ensure long-term success. All schools and garden-related nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for grants to support the launch or expansion of school gardens that will help children engage with fresh fruits and vegetables. Garden projects may be at any stage of development; planning, construction or operation. <http://bit.ly/rrUU7K>

7. Gr 3-12 2011 OPTIMUS PRIME Spinoff Video Contest

NASA has opened registration for the 2011 OPTIMUS PRIME Spinoff Video Contest. Featuring OPTIMUS PRIME, the leader from the popular TRANSFORMERS brand, the contest highlights spinoffs from NASA technologies that are used on Earth. The goal is to help students understand the benefits of NASA technology to their daily lives. Each student, or group of students, will submit a three- to five-minute video on a selected NASA spinoff technology listed in NASA's 2010 "Spinoff" publication. Videos must demonstrate an understanding of the NASA spinoff technology and the associated NASA mission, as well as the commercial application and public benefit associated with the spinoff technology.

Participants must register for the contest by Jan. 3, 2012. Video entries are due Jan. 17, 2012. Video entries will be posted on the NASA YouTube channel, and the public will be responsible for the first round of judging. The top five submissions from each of the three grade groups (Elementary [3rd-5th], Middle [6th-8th] and High School [9th-12th]) will advance for final judging. A NASA panel will select a winning entry from each group. Among other prizes, a crystal OPTIMUS PRIME Spinoff Award Trophy will be given to winners at a special awards ceremony being held in Florida in April 2012.

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#### 8. 2012 AmeriCorps Grants Deadline: January 18

AmeriCorps awards grants to organizations to implement programs that utilize AmeriCorps members to engage in evidence-based interventions to strengthen communities. In the 2012 competition CNCS expects to invest a significant amount of available funding to programs working in the six Focus Areas of Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and Veterans and Military Families. In particular, CNCS seeks to target its AmeriCorps grantmaking in the Education, Disaster Services and Veterans and Military Families Focus Areas. <http://bit.ly/pBlpCw>

#### 9. New Student Experiments Opp. on Int'l Space Station

Announcing the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP) Fourth Flight Opportunity - SSEP Mission 2 to the International Space Station (ISS) The National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (<http://ncesse.org>), in partnership with NanoRacks (<http://nanoracks.com>) invites communities across the U.S. to participate in SSEP Mission 2 to ISS.

Each participating community will be provided all launch services to fly a real microgravity research mini-laboratory on ISS from September 28 to November 12, 2012, and a kit for assembly of their mini-lab. An 8-week experiment design competition in the community, held Spring 2012, will allow grade 5-12 student teams to design real microgravity experiments vying for their community's reserved mini-lab slot on ISS.

SSEP immerses a community of students in real scientific research of their own design (grade level appropriate), using a highly captivating spaceflight opportunity on ISS - America's newest National Laboratory – which will garner the community significant media attention.

SSEP is a true STEM education program. It addresses a wide range of biological and physical science disciplines (thus appropriate for all teachers of science), including: seed germination, crystal growth, physiology of microorganisms and life cycles (e.g. bacteria), cell biology and growth, food studies, and studies of micro-aquatic life. Students design experiments to the technology and engineering constraints imposed by a real research mini-lab and flight operations to and from Earth orbit.

#### SOME SSEP BASICS:

1. Typically a minimum of 300 grade 5-12 students across a community engage in experiment design. The school district is free to determine the participating grade levels. SSEP is not designed for a single class or a small number of students.

2. Implementation is straightforward and well defined; all needed curricular materials are fully developed; and we provide ongoing, proactive support for your educator implementation team.
3. Well designed content resources for teachers and students support foundational instruction on science in microgravity and experimental design.
4. SSEP is flexible enough to be tailored to your community's strategic needs in STEM education.
5. A suite of SSEP program elements - the Community Program - leverages the flight experiment design competition to engage the entire community, embracing a Learning Community Model for STEM education. Elements include flying up to 2 Mission Patches resulting from an art and design competition across your community, and a SSEP Community Blog for each community.
  
6. Students can take part in their own research conference where they can report on experiment design and results. The conference is held in Washington, DC, in early July, and likely at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, the site of the 2011 conference.

CRITICAL DEADLINE: participating communities must be aboard by February 27, 2012.

1. CAREFULLY review the National Announcement of Opportunity (link below), which includes links to all aspects of the program.

2. Contact us at [ssep@ncesse.org](mailto:ssep@ncesse.org) or call at: 301-395-0770

GO TO NATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY:

<http://ssep.ncesse.org/?p=7954>

#### 10. EngineerGirl! Essay Contest for Youth Now Open for Entries

The NAE's EngineerGirl! website has announced its 12th annual essay contest. Students are asked to write about the **role of engineering in providing safe and nutritious food**. Participation is open to both girls and boys in grades 3-12, and submissions must be entered by March 1, 2012. All winning entries will be published on the EngineerGirl! website, and winners will receive cash prizes. Please visit:

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

Participation is open to both girls and boys in grades 3-12 and submissions must be entered by 6:00 pm (EST) on March 1, 2012. All winning entries will be published on the *EngineerGirl!* website and winners will receive cash prizes: first place winners \$500, second place winners \$250, third place winners \$100. The 2012 *EngineerGirl!* Essay Contest was made possible by the generous support of Lockheed Martin Corporation.

The *EngineerGirl!* website is designed to spark the curiosity of young people, girls in particular, and encourage them to consider careers in engineering. *EngineerGirl!* provides career descriptions, profiles of successful women engineers, information about exciting engineering projects, and interactive tools for girls, parents, teachers, and guidance counselors, all designed to encourage girls to pursue an engineering education and career. In a 2011 poll, girls' reported that viewing the *EngineerGirl!* website or participating in its annual essay contest caused 63% of them to consider a

career in engineering and 81% to consider studying engineering in college. Please visit [www.engineergirl.org](http://www.engineergirl.org) to learn more. If you have questions, or seek clarification, please contact the *EngineerGirl!* team at [engineergirl@nae.edu](mailto:engineergirl@nae.edu).

11. Gr PK-5: Take Me Fishing for FREE

<http://discoverylake.discoveryeducation.com/> and <http://exploretheblue.com/>

The Take Me Fishing™ campaign and Discovery Education invite all kids to experience the joy of America's lakes, rivers and streams. Explore the Blue is a comprehensive program that provides you with classroom resources to lead the way. From 28 cross-curricular, standards-aligned lesson plans to Discovery Streaming videos, a regional U.S. habitat map, and Thrill of the Catch, an interactive fishing game.

12. Gr 4-6: Siemens Science Day <http://www.siemensscienceday.com/>

Siemens Foundation and Discovery Education launched a Website emphasizing the importance of math and science in grades 4–6 through a day of free, fun and engaging hands-on science activities. Now in its fourth year, Siemens Science Day has expanded to reach all elementary students and teachers through engaging digital content and the chance to win an Ultimate Cool School Assembly. New standards-aligned science resources, hands-on activities and videos are available for K–6 classrooms. Entries for school assemblies will be accepted through February 28, 2012.

13. Aquaculture Research Station Field Day

The LSU AgCenter's Aquaculture Research Station will be holding a field day on May 2, 2012. The Station will be open to the public, including elementary and high school science and agriculture classes. The goal of the field day is to provide information on the importance of the aquaculture industry to Louisiana's economy, and highlight the various scientific disciplines that are essential for the culture of aquatic animals. The Aquaculture Station has on-going research projects related to nutrition, water quality, physiology, engineering, genetic improvement, and production practices for crawfish, alligators, baitfish, catfish, and a number of other species.

Advanced registration will be required, to avoid problems with parking and tour logistics. More details will be forthcoming – in the meantime, information on the Aquaculture Research Station and the LSU AgCenter's aquaculture programs can be found at [http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our\\_offices/research\\_stations/Aquaculture/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our_offices/research_stations/Aquaculture/) and [http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops\\_livestock/aquaculture/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/crops_livestock/aquaculture/)

Questions regarding the field day can be sent directly to Dr. Greg Lutz at [glutz@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:glutz@agcenter.lsu.edu)

14. New Freebies from Sid and Dinosaur Train

Many preschool and kindergarten teachers use the PBS Kids series Dinosaur Train and Sid the Science Kid to encourage scientific curiosity in their students. Now as part of a

special, limited-time offer, teachers can sign up to receive new free educational materials connected with these popular programs.

The Dinosaur Train educator toolkit can engage young children in paleontology, life science, and natural history. Each toolkit contains episode clips, music videos, lyric sheets, and PK–Kindergarten lesson plans from the series. On the same request form: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?hl=en\\_US&pli=1&formkey=dHFSWII5cJbJMTZUQ2dYlW1UWGxQTEE6MQ#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?hl=en_US&pli=1&formkey=dHFSWII5cJbJMTZUQ2dYlW1UWGxQTEE6MQ#gid=0) sign up to receive a Dinosaur Train Nature Tracker poster! The front shows a full-color image of Buddy and his siblings, while on the back, teachers will find tips for safety and science fun outdoors.

In addition, teachers can sign up to receive Sid the Science Kid posters for their young scientists! The front of the poster features a full-color image of Sid, his friends, and teacher Susie at the science center; the back contains tips for engaging young children in science and interacting at a science center or museum. Please visit:

<http://pbskids.org/dinosaurtrain/> and <http://pbskids.org/sid/>

#### 15. CYBERCHASE LAUNCHES MULTI-MEDIA MATH SITE for ages 8 to 11

Parents and teachers concerned about children falling behind in math can take heart that an online destination designed to captivate, entertain, and improve problem-solving and math skills is now bigger and better than ever. THIRTEEN for WNET has relaunched the Cyberchase website with all-new features and hundreds of videos, math games and hands-on activities in support of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) learning. The [website](#) brings together in one place all 94 of Cyberchase's episodes, hundreds of videos, including videos in Spanish, and 100+ math games and activities -- and is a culmination of nine years' research which demonstrates the power of Cyberchase to improve children's problem-solving and math skills, and increase positive attitudes toward math.

Executive Producer and Editorial Director Frances Nankin explains, "Recent NSF-funded research using Cyberchase revealed that engaging children with a combination of media on the same topic produces greater learning than using one medium alone. Our site's new recommended content paths were informed by this research. We know this will serve kids well, and that parents and educators will love it." Central to the redesign are new recommended content paths -- prompts designed to keep kids moving through math experiences across a single theme. When users select their favorite Cyberchase games or episodes to play, they automatically can choose from other media selections related to the same math topic or character.

#### 16. More information about the Next Generation Science Standards

<https://sas.illuminate.com/d.jnlp?password=12YI20ZWCYXR97RPN1MK&sid=vclass>  
Achieve has set up a few dates to provide an informational Webinar introducing State teams to the review options and process as we move forward in the Next Generation

Science Standards development. The Webinars will also be recorded for those that are unable to participate live.

17. PK-1: National Geographic for Little Kids

<http://kidsblogs.nationalgeographic.com/littlekids/>

This web site is jammed with great video clips that would be of great interest to our youngest scientists, including day-old wood duck babies jumping 15 feet from their nest to the pond water below where their mother is waiting for and calling to them. There are puzzles to solve, photos to admire, with opportunities to share your own, games, and more. Exploring the site is half the fun! Enjoy.

18. Gr K-3: New Early Childhood Lessons from Facing the Future

<http://bit.ly/u9tVFJ>

Eco-Schools USA partner Facing the Future recently released a new curriculum resource. Connecting Students to the World: Engaging K-3 Lessons for Literacy, Science, and Social Studies is research-based, teacher-tested, and aligned with language arts, science, social studies, and Common Core standards for all fifty states. It's designed to integrate into core classroom teaching and to encourage hands-on exploration of global issues and sustainability for young learners.

19. Gr 3-5: Inspire Future Engineers <http://www.engineeringinteract.org/interact.htm>

Designed by the Department of Engineering at the University of Cambridge, Interactive science & engineering (for 9 to 11 year olds) presents five games involving the subtopics of Light, Sound, Forces & Motion, Earth & Beyond and Electricity. Each game contains a number of interactive modules, split into three sections: learning, testing and engineering applications.

Students can launch themselves into Alien Attack, immerse themselves in Ocean Odyssey, brave the rides in Park World Plot, take a giant leap in Astro Adventure and go undercover with Silicon Spies. They can also find out how science is used to help people and what exciting new inventions are on the horizon.

20. AGI Boosts STEM Education with NASA Triad Site

Alexandria, VA - The American Geosciences Institute (AGI) has launched an online professional development guide for workshops on NASA geoscience, technology, engineering and mathematics content.

The web site (<http://www.agiweb.org/education/NASA/>) is a valuable resource for anyone that is planning a STEM-based workshop for teachers, and that is leveraging NASA resources. The project is expected to increase use of NASA's STEM content in secondary classrooms nationwide.

Initially developed by AGI for use with lead teachers in the Triad program, the site is being made available online to all those who wish to help teachers incorporate NASA

content into their lessons. The site includes a workshop "how-to" guide, advice from experienced workshop leaders, hands-on activities, and hundreds of NASA-based resources.

NASA Triad is a three-pronged project in partnership with the School of Earth and Space Exploration at Arizona State University to promote STEM components of NASA's missions to grades 6-12 teachers and students nationwide. In addition to the website, the project includes:

- \* a national professional development network of lead teachers to deliver workshops to their local school districts; and
- \* the incorporation of NASA science and technology content into AGI's nationally distributed middle and high school Earth science curricula.

#### 21. World War II Museum's virtual field trip videoconferences

##### The War that Changed Your World: Science and Technology in WWII

Today's televisions, computers, and cell phones can all trace their origins to technological advancements realized during WWII. Students learn about radar, rockets, jets, penicillin, blood plasma, computers, and the atomic bomb; and how these inventions continue to affect their lives today.

<http://www.ww2sci-tech.org/>

The goal of The Classroom Victory Garden Project is to teach elementary students about the role of community in WWII through interdisciplinary curriculum designed to connect the past and the present. Millions of Americans grew Victory Gardens in their backyards - and on rooftops and in windowboxes - during WWII to supplement their wartime rations and help spur victory. That can-do spirit can offer your young students an age-appropriate entree into the lessons and history of WWII.

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

Explore the WWII history of secret codes and deception. Learn to write in five secret code languages, send Morse code, test your lie detection abilities and experiment with recipes for invisible ink. Workshops are designed for children ages 8-12. Pre-registration is required for workshops. Please **make your reservation online now**, call 504-528-1944 x229 or email [lauren.handley@nationalww2museum.org](mailto:lauren.handley@nationalww2museum.org) to secure your spot. 1 adult per 3 kids required.

Date: Saturday, November 19, 2011

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Calendar: 2011

November 18: Deadline to enter HS teams in the Real World Design Challenge

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

November 28: Deadline to submit proposal for Plant the Seeds of Learning grant

<http://www.kidsgardening.org/grants/2012-youth-garden-grants->

November 30: Deadline to register a team for the Team America Rocketry Challenge

<http://www.rocketcontest.org>

November 30: Deadline to apply for the Faraday Science Communicator Award

<http://www.nsta.org/about/awards.aspx#faraday>

November 30: Deadline to apply for the PASCO STEM Educator Awards

<http://www.pasco.com/STEMawards>

December 1: The DiscoverE Educator Awards

<http://www.eweek.org/NewsStory.aspx?ContentID=256>

December 2: Deadline to apply for the Teachers in Space: Pathfinder Competition

<http://teachersinspace.org/apply/apply.htm>

December 4: Deadline to submit entries in the Intel -Wired to Learn contest

<http://contest.appup.com/#Challenges>

December 7: Deadline to enter the YouTube SpaceLab experiment competition

<http://www.youtube.com/SpaceLab>

December 9: Deadline to apply for LOFT loves Teachers grants

<http://www.kinf.org>

December 9: Deadline to apply for the Battle of the Bricks Competition

<http://www.battlebricks.myreviewroom.com>

December 16: Deadline to register for the Mars Education Challenge

<http://www.exploremars.org/page/mars-education-challenge/>

December 23: Deadline to register for Disney's Planet Challenge

<http://disney.go.com/planetchallenge/>

December 30: Deadline to submit application for an EPA Teacher Award

<http://epa.gov/education/teacheraward/index.html>

2012

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January 5: Deadline to apply for the Einstein Fellowship Program

<http://www.einsteinfellows.org>

January 16: Deadline to apply for the Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award

[http://www.amfcse.org/Alan%20Shepard%20Award/alan\\_shepard\\_award.htm](http://www.amfcse.org/Alan%20Shepard%20Award/alan_shepard_award.htm)

January 18: 2012 AmeriCorps Grants <http://bit.ly/pBlpCw>

January 21: AMS WEATHERFEST New Orleans <http://www.annual.ametsoc.org/2012/>

February 28: Deadline to enter the Siemens Science Day competition

<http://www.siemensscienceday.com/>

March 1 EngineerGirl! Essay Contest for Youth <http://www.engineergirl.org/>

March 12: Deadline to enter the Samsung "Solve for Tomorrow" competition

<https://pages.samsung.com/us/sft/home.htm>

March 22: Deadline to submit entries in 7th Annual DNA Day Essay Contest

<http://www.ashg.org/education/dnaday.shtml>

March 29 – April 1: NSTA National Conference in Indianapolis, IN

<http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2012ind/>

April 2: Deadline to enter Rubber Band contest for young inventors

<http://www.rubberbandcontest.org>

E-Blast contact: [jean.may-brett@la.gov](mailto:jean.may-brett@la.gov)