

## E-Blast # 2 October 2011

If you are registered for the NSTA conference you have a very special opportunity to attend one of the following extended sessions free of charge delivered by a nationally known and highly regarded author/presenter **Saturday, November 12, 2011 from 12:45 PM to 4:30 PM**. You don't want to miss this opportunity! You will receive an autographed copy of the NSTA book that complements the workshop and access to two free online sci-packs of your choice from the NSTA Online Learning Center. Both will be exceptional. Register immediately so you don't miss out!

Picture Perfect Science presented by Emily Morgan (K-4)  
Visual Learning in K-8 Science with Jo Anne Vasquez (5-8)

To get a ticket for the exclusive Saturday afternoon event, complete the customized registration form for Louisiana educators available at: [www.nsta.org/pdfs/2011PDL.pdf](http://www.nsta.org/pdfs/2011PDL.pdf).

1. *If you have already registered for the 2011 NSTA Area Conference on Science Education in Louisiana, print out the customized registration form for Louisiana educators, fill in your personal contact information, check the box for which PDL you want at the lower left corner of the form, and across the Payment section, write: "I am already registered for the conference."*
2. **Fax your completed form to 703.243.3924**

Your registration form must be completed (received at NSTA) by **October 21, 2011** in order for you to participate in the Professional Development for Louisiana School Districts event on Saturday afternoon.

If you know of others attending NSTA, please let them know about these sessions.

Please read below for information on the following:

1. 2011 IGES Art Contest - Wonders of Weather: Grades 2-4 Deadline Nov. 7
2. Name a Moon Bound Spacecraft: Deadline November 11
3. Real World Design Challenge Registration Deadline November 18
4. DCAT "Making a Difference" Award: Deadline November 30
5. Intel-Wired to Learn; The contest deadline December 4
6. EINSTEIN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM; Deadline January 6
7. Alan Shepard Technology in Education Awards; Deadline January 16
8. Samsung - Solve for Tomorrow—Sharing the Wonder of STEM; Deadline March 12
9. 7th Annual DNA Day Essay Contest; Deadline March 12
10. Free materials from the National Institutes of Health.
11. EPA Showcases Educational Website on Climate Change for Middle School

1. 2011 IGES Art Contest - Wonders of Weather: Grades 2-4 Due Nov. 7

When you go outside, what makes you wonder? Is it the colors and shapes of clouds? The burst of thunder during a rainy afternoon? Or a thick white blanket made of slowly falling snowflakes? Weather, the state of the atmosphere at a particular time and place, is constantly changing. So look around and ask yourself, what makes you wonder about weather?

This year's contest invites young scientists and artists to explore weather in the world around them. Students grades 2-4 may submit one 2-D entry that does not exceed 16"x20". The work should be creative, bold and colorful. Please provide a title on the entry form that describes the artwork (do not use the contest title Wonders of Weather: What Do You See?). Winners will have their artwork featured on the IGES web site, and will receive a Visa gift card (1st place - \$100, 2nd place - \$75, 3rd place - \$50). To find out more, see complete rules and download an entry form, visit <http://www.strategies.org/artcontest>.

#### 2. Name a Moon Bound Spacecraft: Enter by November 11

NASA has a class assignment for U.S. K-12 students: help the agency give the twin spacecraft headed to orbit around the moon (GRAIL A & B) new names. Entries must be submitted by teachers using an online entry form by November 11, 2011. For more information, please visit:

<http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/grail/namingcontest.cfm?CFID=6865009&CFTOKEN=93461418>

#### 3. Real World Design Challenge Registration Deadline November 18

Your high school students can soar when they enter the Real World Design Challenge (RWDC). This annual aviation design competition is run by a public-private partnership seeking to sustainably increase the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce. They make it easy for teachers to get involved. Every participating teacher receives \$1 million in professional engineering software, along with training, curriculum materials, and access to mentors. Teams of three to seven high school students use these resources to solve an engineering challenge currently faced by industry.

State champions win an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to compete in the national finals. For that round, teachers will receive an additional challenge that builds on the state challenge, which teams will present in Washington in April.

Register your team by November 18 and learn more at the RWDC website at:

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

#### 4. DCAT "Making a Difference" Award: Deadline November 30

This award will recognize and honor excellence in a science program developed and implemented by middle- or high school-level science teachers, grades 6–12. Entries must show innovative and effective teaching strategies combined with a science program that has influenced students to explore and investigate science and its application to global problems.

Eligibility: Innovative middle- or high school-level science programs

Award: \$2,500 to be used to enhance or expand the winning science program; the winning school's lead science teacher and principal will be awarded coach airfare and two nights' hotel accommodation to attend NSTA's National Conference.

Deadline: November 30, 2011

For more information, please visit:

<http://nsta.org/pdfs/awards/DCAT.pdf>

5. Intel-Wired to Learn; The contest runs until December 4, 2011.

Kids are wired to learn and technology can help them achieve their dreams. Enter the contest by saying in 500 words or less why your favorite K-12 school deserves a technology package, featuring industry-leading technology from Intel, exciting learning and teaching apps, and more. If your story gets the most votes by December 4, your designated school will win a technology package worth \$25,000. Second and third place winners receive technology packages valued at \$10,000 and \$5000. And, every week they will give away a notebook, to reward you for helping your community. For more information, please visit:

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

6. EINSTEIN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2012 Application process open

Attention K-12 STEM educators: Are you an experienced educator who is ready to make a difference in education policy on a national scale? If so, consider applying for an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship and prepare for a year of unique opportunities. As an Einstein Fellow, you will spend a school year in Washington, DC sharing your expertise with policy makers. You may serve your Fellowship with one of several government agency sponsors such as the Department of Energy, NASA, the National Science Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or in the office of a member of Congress.

The goal of the Einstein Fellowship program is to provide an opportunity for teachers to inform national policy and improve communication between the K-12 STEM education community and national leaders. Selection is based on exemplary experience in K-12 STEM teaching; demonstrated leadership in the community; an understanding of national, state, and local education policy; and communication and interpersonal skills. The application deadline is January 5, 2012. To learn more about the program and to apply, visit [www.einsteinfellows.org](http://www.einsteinfellows.org) or email [einsteinfellows@triangle-coalition.org](mailto:einsteinfellows@triangle-coalition.org).

7. Alan Shepard Technology in Education Awards; Deadline January 16, 2012

Do you know K-12 teachers or district-level administrators who are making a difference in education through the use of technology? Recognize their achievements by nominating them for the Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award. The Astronauts Memorial Foundation, in partnership with NASA and the Space Foundation, will recognize the accomplishments of one outstanding individual and his or her contributions to lifelong learning through the application of technology in the classroom or professional development of teachers.

Technology personnel and K-12 classroom teachers who have demonstrated exemplary use of technology to enhance learning are eligible for this award. School principals, superintendents or associate superintendents may nominate eligible candidates. The award will be presented in April 2012 at the 28th National Space Symposium in Colorado Springs, Colo. The deadline for applications is Jan. 16, 2012.

Applications and more information are available online at [http://www.amfcse.org/Alan%20Shepard%20Award/alan\\_shepard\\_award.htm](http://www.amfcse.org/Alan%20Shepard%20Award/alan_shepard_award.htm)

#### 8. - Solve for Tomorrow – Sharing the Wonder of STEM

Your school can win a part of \$1,000,000 in technology. Samsung is dedicated to helping children share the wonder of life, learning, and our planet. This fall, Samsung is giving public schools nationwide the opportunity to share the wonder of Samsung technology. Samsung and its partners are asking teachers to participate in its contest, which will address a key academic challenge in our country: to increase the pursuit of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education. With Samsung and schools joining together, they are looking to foster interest in these subjects among students and illustrate the practical impact applying these subjects can have. The deadline to enter is March 12, 2012. Please visit:

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

#### 9. 7th Annual DNA Day Essay Contest ; Deadline March 12

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

The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) announces its 7th Annual DNA Day Essay Contest for high school students from across the United States and around the world. DNA Day commemorates the anniversary of the publication of Watson and Crick's seminal paper proposing a double-helical structure for DNA.

Students are eligible for cash prizes of \$1,000, \$600, and \$400 for first-, second-, and third-place, respectively, and \$100 for honorable mention (10 awards). Teachers of winning students will receive lab equipment grants of equivalent value. We invite you to submit up to six of the best essays that your students write. Because ASHG has always emphasized the importance of writing quality in the essays, in addition to the accuracy of the genetics content, please consider promoting this contest with your colleagues in the language arts. It is an excellent vehicle for implementing writing across the curriculum.

The essay submission site will open in January, the deadline is March 12, 2012, and winners will be announced April 20. We know you like to have this information as early in the academic year as possible so that you can build the essay into your teaching plans, and we hope you will be submitting this year.

10. Enrich your science education curriculum with free materials from one of the National Institutes of Health. Our latest offerings include:

[Inside Life Science](#), a series of short articles about the science of health

The September 2011 issue of [Findings magazine](#), which features two young and interesting scientists:

*George Hightower of the University of California, San Diego, who studies how HIV can infect the brain*

*Cara Altimus of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, who explores how light and darkness relate to the body's daily rhythms, sleep disorders and certain brain diseases*

[Electronic versions](#) (PDF, HTML and EPUB) of our popular science education booklets  
Browse and order free print copies of these and our many other materials at

<http://publications.nigms.nih.gov/eblast/ssq/index.html>

If your e-mail does not support the above address as a link, simply cut and paste it into your browser address window.

11. EPA Showcases Educational Website on Climate Change for Middle School

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched an all new website titled "A Student's Guide to Global Climate Change" devoted to educating 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders about Earth's climate and how it is changing as a result of burning fossil fuels and other human activities.

The site, launched in April of this year, provides students and educators with content on the science of climate change, how it affects society and ecosystems, and information about solutions to the climate change problem. The information is presented in a variety of compelling formats including video, animations, interactive graphics, and "expeditions" where students can explore and learn how climate change will affect places around the world. This new web resource can be used by teachers, and informal educators to develop class activities and homework.

The site covers the Climate Literacy Principles developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the science content on references key peer reviewed climate assessment reports and was reviewed for scientific accuracy by climate experts at EPA.

To view the site: <http://epa.gov/climatechange/students/>.

