



Ohio's STEM Ability Alliance

STEM Degrees and Careers for Ohioans with Disabilities



OSAA E-NEWS

Issue 6, December 31, 2010

Ohio's STEM Ability Alliance (OSAA)



With the close of 2010 we are completing our second year of the National Science Foundation grant that established Ohio's STEM Ability Alliance. The alliance, consisting of Wright State University (WSU), Ohio State University (OSU), Sinclair Community College (SCC) and Columbus State Community College (CSCC) along with partner K-12 school systems and government and industry employers is developing and implementing a system of interventions at the high school and college levels focusing on increasing the representation of students with all types of disabilities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) based career fields.

the progress made by the students participating in our alliance activities with other STEM educators, sponsors, participating OSAA Scholars, staff and faculty members who share our interests.

Fall quarter 2010 began with a growing number of incoming students participating in OSAA programming for all the alliance institutions. The recruiting efforts are starting to show in the increasing number of students participating in all levels of the student learning communities, advising programs and professional development activities. Opportunities for growing the number of students who pursue STEM education and enhancing the quality of the degrees earned are continuing to surface on a national and regional level and the alliance institutions are pulling these opportunities together and working to make them available and accessible to OSAA students. Thanks to all who are participating in this worthwhile endeavor.

Inside this issue:

Ohio's STEM Ability Alliance	1
COF Scholarships-Year Two	1
Dayton QUAD News	2-3
Columbus QUAD News	4
Columbus QUAD Highlights	5
Columbus QUAD Opportunities	6
Dayton QUAD Student Highlights	7
Resources and Internship Opportunities for STEM Students	8
OSAA Upcoming Events	9-10
STEM in the News	11

This newsletter highlights OSAA's accomplishments during the final quarter of 2010 and outlines ongoing programs and plans for the upcoming winter and spring quarters. One of our primary goals is to report

Choose Ohio First Scholarships - Year Two

The Choose Ohio First grant from the Ohio Board of Regents is in its second year of providing scholarships to OSAA Scholars. The availability of competitive COF Scholarships has become a key facet of our strategy to attract and motivate students to pursue STEM majors and participate in OSAA. Awards are made to individual students in amounts of \$1500 to \$4700 for an academic year.

awarded COF scholarships to forty eight different students. The Ohio State University has awarded an additional twenty scholarships this year bringing their total number of scholarships awarded to forty one. Sinclair College has also awarded two COF scholarships to their students in the first two years of the program.

All our COF OSAA Scholars had the opportunity to join the 2010 Choose Ohio First Scholars Recognition Event which was held on November 7, 2010 at the Dayton Convention Center. Many deserving students are afforded the chance to attend college thanks to these scholarships.

This fall brought another wave of scholarship awards for OSAA Scholars. WSU distributed nineteen awards at the beginning of fall quarter and additional eighteen awards winter quarter. To date, WSU has



This project is supported in part by the National Science Foundation under grants #HRD-0833644 & #HRD-0833561. Any opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author (s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.



Ohio's STEM Ability Alliance

STEM Degrees and Careers for Ohioans with Disabilities



OSAA Dayton QUAD News

Sinclair Community College – Campus Visit Day for Students with Disabilities

As part of the Dayton QUAD, Sinclair Community College sponsored a Campus Visit Day, November 6, 2010 for students in the 6th-12th grade with disabilities from local schools who have expressed interest in STEM fields. The WSU Dayton QUAD OSAA office provided a presentation on the benefits of joining the Ohio's STEM Ability Alliance and provided their assistance to make this half day event a success. Seventeen students and their parents attended this event on a Saturday morning. The students toured Sinclair's campus, learned about Sinclair's office of Disability Services, and saw demonstrations in the areas of Physics, Math, Chemistry, and the Energy Laboratory. The chemistry demonstration of making ice cream with liquid nitrogen was particularly well received and helped students to envision the broad impact of science in all aspects of life. Plans are for another Campus Visit Day hosted by Sinclair again in spring 2011.



Dr. Holly Brown-Wright and students in the SCC Energy Lab

Fourth Annual Learning with Disability (LwD) Winter Workshop



PhD IGERT Fellow Presenting his Research

The LwD Winter Storm Workshop was held early this December for the fourth consecutive year. The event was sponsored by the Wright State Integrative Graduate Education and Research and Training (IGERT) program in Technology-based Learning with Disability and conducted by the IGERT fellows. Over fifty faculty, staff, graduate students and OSAA Scholars were in attendance. Two keynote speakers were featured. Darren Kall, the Vice President of Kall Consulting, a customer and user experience design and strategy company presented on the topic *Secondary Impacts of Interdisciplinary, Participatory Design on Innovation*. Dr. Brad Duerstock from Purdue University provided an overview of a new research program titled: *Advancing the inclusion of Students with Disabilities in STEM Careers through Laboratory Practice*. Brad is an assistant research professor and director of the Institute of Accessible Science (IAS) and works on designing and developing software and hardware based assistive technology for persons with movement disabilities. The Wright State LwD IGERT fellows organized two panels to present preliminary results of their doctoral research:

Panel 1: Enhanced Interactions through Technology

- Stephanie Auld - "WearABLE Computing for Students with Mild-to-Moderate Cognitive Disabilities"
- Jeh Cooper - "Exploring the Potential for Independent Control Using the NIA/Brainfingers System"
- Jenny Border - "Dasher as a Typing Device Using the NIA/Brainfingers System"
- Jim Leonard - "Point and Click Assistive Technology Using Brainfingers"

Panel 2: Eyes-Free Navigation, Reading, & Web-Based Information Seeking

- Julio C. Mateo – "Unveiling the Cognitive Processes Underlying Successful Independent Travel Without Vision"
- Carissa Brunsmann Johnson - "Adaptive User Interfaces to Support Web-based Information Seeking for Users who are Blind"
- Robert Keefer - "Image Processing Techniques for a Mobile Reading Device"
- Alyssa George Whitney - "Testing and modeling of devices for orthopedic trauma interventions"



Ohio's STEM Ability Alliance

STEM Degrees and Careers for Ohioans with Disabilities



OSAA Dayton QUAD News

WSU OSAA Scholar's Meetings and First Year Student Learning Community (SLC)

Fall quarter saw the second offering of UVC 101 "Gateway to STEM for Students with Disabilities". This for credit first year experience one quarter class forms the OSAA Level 1 Student Learning Community at Wright State University. Twelve new freshmen were enrolled in the SLC which introduces students to OSAA opportunities and the Ability Advisor relationship, addresses academic skill development, personal adjustment to college, and STEM career preparation.

OSAA Scholars meetings form the advanced student learning communities for OSAA Scholars in the Dayton QUAD. They are held monthly during the academic year to assemble the Scholars and address topics of common interest including STEM developments in various fields, preparation for the job market and graduate education. Both Wright State and Sinclair College students are encouraged to participate. Wright State University's first OSAA Scholar Meeting for the fall quarter was held on September 21, with a total of thirty students in attendance. Returning OSAA scholars began the meeting by sharing stories and experiences with this year's new OSAA Scholars. They emphasized the importance of participating in OSAA and provided the new students valuable program information to guide



OSAA Scholar's Meeting

them on their educational journey. Our OSAA Ability Advisor, Brittany Boyne encouraged the scholars to participate as high school mentors and emphasized the benefits that are received both by the students being mentored and the person acting as a mentor to prospective college STEM freshmen. The meeting ended with the group brainstorming other potential topics for future OSAA Scholar meetings.

The second meeting was timed to coincide with a Wright State Presidential Lecture Series event for fall quarter on October 18. We preceded the lecture with a social opportunity for our students to mix and mingle with other OSAA Scholars before attending. The lecture was presented by Andy Imparato of the American Association of People with Disabilities and twenty five of our OSAA Scholar's attended.

Wright State University Presidential Lecture Series

Wright State University's fall quarter Presidential Lecture Series campus wide event featured Andy Imparato. Imparato is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Association of People with Disabilities and presented "The Next Big Thing for People with Disabilities: From Civil Rights to Economic Well-Being".

Andy Imparato is the first full-time president and chief executive officer of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), whose perspective is based on his personal experience with bipolar disorder. Founded in 1995, AAPD is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization of people with disabilities, their family members. AAPD pursues its mission of political and economic empowerment of all people with disabilities through public policy advocacy and programs fostering leadership development, mentoring, career exploration, voting and civic participation, and member benefits. With more than 100,000 members, AAPD is the largest cross-disability membership organization in the U.S. The OSAA Scholars found this lecture to be informative as well as educational.



Andy Imparato

Ohio's STEM Ability Alliance

STEM Degrees and Careers for Ohioans with Disabilities

The Ohio STEM Ability Alliance is supported by the National Science Foundation under NSF Award Number HRD-0833961. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the National Science Foundation.

OSAA Columbus QUAD News

Temple Grandin at The Ohio State University

On November 30, 2010, OSAA students had the opportunity to hear Temple Grandin speak at the Fawcett Center located on the OSU campus. Temple Grandin is an American doctor of animal science and professor at Colorado State University, bestselling author, and consultant to the livestock industry on animal behavior. As a person with high-functioning autism, Grandin is also widely noted for her work in autism advocacy and is the inventor of the hug machine designed to calm hypersensitive people.

Grandin spoke about her work with animals, her education, and what she has done to advocate for herself. Some of the advice she had for students was to get involved with people who have similar interests and to show off your portfolio with your best work. She described how when she was looking for jobs, she presented her hand-drawn designs and impressed her interviewers. After the event, students were able to take pictures with Grandin and went home with an autographed copy of her book, *Thinking in Pictures: My Life with Autism*.



OSU Students visiting with Temple Grandin

Student Learning Communities (SLC) - OSU

December brought the conclusion of one of the Student Learning Communities (SLC) held at Columbus State Community College (CSCC) this fall. Throughout the term, students developed a self-advocacy plan, which they will present to the students participating in the second SLC being held at CSCC in January. In addition, students were busy fine-tuning their resumes, practicing their interviewing skills, and exploring internship opportunities. The second SLC operates in conjunction with the Autism College Transition (ACT) Program at CSCC. The ACT program is a community-based education program to help support individuals with autism with a successful college experience.

Aside from the SLCs held at CSCC, preparations are under way for the next SLC to be held at the Ohio State University this winter. New OSAA students are signed up and ready to get started in January!





OSAA Columbus QUAD Highlights

OSAA SLC Speaker Receives Honorable Nomination

President Barack Obama has announced his intent to nominate Kathy Sullivan, the inaugural director of the Battelle Center for Mathematics and Science Education Policy in the John Glenn School of Public Affairs, for the position of assistant secretary of Commerce (Observation and Prediction) at the Department of Commerce. The position oversees the National Weather



Kathy Sullivan

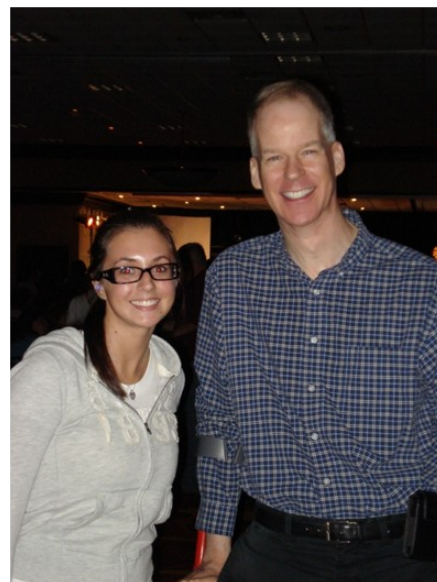
Service and all other programs and equipment related to weather and water. Sullivan, who was the first American woman to walk in space, spoke at the first SLC at Ohio State in the spring of 2008. For more details on the nomination, go to <http://glennschool.osu.edu/sullivan/index.html>. Read her interview with the Ohio STEM Learning Network here: http://www.stemscape.org/features/QASullivan8_16_10.aspx.

DEAF Initiatives "Making a Difference with Your Future"

The workshop took place September 24-26, 2010. The workshop is designed to help facilitate the transition of deaf and hard of hearing youth from high school to post secondary education or work. The purpose is to help both the student and parent begin thinking about life after high school, options that are available to them and how to prepare for those options. Deaf Initiatives, Inc. used this biennial transition weekend to give deaf and hard of hearing youth, and their families, access to career guidance, job path planning and higher education options. The transition weekend is designed to offer a creative, fun and productive environment for students and parents who want to plan for the future. Through a partnership with the DEAF Initiatives program OSAA was able to disseminate information and recruit students with an informational table as well as host a mentor mingle during the concert put on by Beethoven's Nightmare (a band comprised of members who are all completely deaf).



Participating Students in the Workshop



Ohio's STEM Ability Alliance

STEM Degrees and Careers for Ohioans with Disabilities

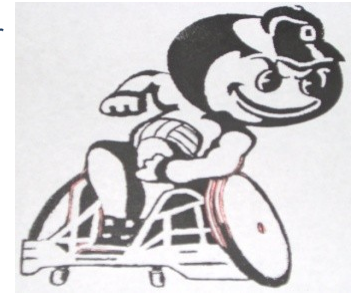
The Ohio STEM Ability Alliance is supported by the National Science Foundation under NSF Award Number HRD-0533961. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the National Science Foundation.

OSAA Columbus QUAD Opportunities

OSAA Volunteers Needed

The 9th annual Columbus Collision Wheelchair Rugby Tournament was held December 11th and 12th at the Big Run Athletic Complex in Columbus. Teams from Pittsburgh, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, and Canada competed in the tournament, which was hosted by The Ohio Buckeye Blitz, Ohio's only wheelchair rugby team. OSAA student volunteers helped run shot clocks, penalty boxes, and assisted as needed. Next Month, OSAA students will have the opportunity to volunteer for the MLK Day of Service at OSU. For this event, students are encouraged to make it a day ON, not a day OFF! Throughout his life, Dr. King sought to forge the common ground on which people from all walks of life could join together to address important community issues.

Working alongside individuals of all ages, races and backgrounds, Dr. King encouraged Americans to come together to strengthen communities, alleviate poverty, and acknowledge dignity and respect for all human beings. Service, he realized, was the great equalizer. This year's MLK Day of Service is taking place on **Monday, January 17, 2011**. Registration will begin at 8am in the Archie Griffin Ballroom in the Ohio Union. All OSAA students and partners are invited to volunteer! RSVP, call 614-688-4461 or email osaa@osu.edu.



Wheelchair Brutus



OSU Rugby Team

OSU Offers Digital Media Challenge

OSU students are invited to take a shot at winning \$400, \$600, or \$1,000. Create a video, audio, or other digital media piece that shows how technology increases student engagement or improves instructors' teaching. First, second and third place winning entries will be shown at Innovate 2011 and featured on the Year of eLearning web site. Winners also receive the opportunity to have the Digital Union Staff make a presentation to their class, colleagues, or organization on a topic of choice. The deadline is **March 11th**, and it's open to OSU faculty, students, and staff. For details, see elearning.osu.edu/challenge or contact digitalunion@osu.edu



Ohio's STEM Ability Alliance

STEM Degrees and Careers for Ohioans with Disabilities



OSAA Dayton QUAD Student Highlights

OSAA Dayton Scholar Presents to the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting

Jacob B., an undergraduate OSAA Scholar's paper, "STEM Field Education: Increasing interest among Students with Disabilities through Geoscience Education" was chosen to be presented at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America held in Denver, Colorado, October 31 - November 3, 2010. The paper notes that encouraging students with disabilities in secondary and post secondary education to pursue STEM careers is imperative to expanding diversity and enhance innovation and accessibility in the STEM disciplines. Due to extensive educational field requirements, geology is one particular field of science not traditionally accessible to students with disabilities. The reported work was part of a larger study sponsored by the National Science Foundation and conducted by researchers at The Ohio State University in which a group of WSU students with various mobility impairments completed both classroom and field instruction in cave and karst geology systems. Students first obtained an understanding of basic geologic concepts and processes and given an opportunity to explore these concepts at Mammoth Cave National Park. The presentation provided a first-hand account of the cave geology field experience from one of the student participants and offered the case for encouraging other students with disabilities to pursue opportunities in geology.



GSA Meeting in Denver, Colorado

Lisa D. received OSAA support to attend GRE 1010 the Wright State University Graduation Preparation Course. Good Luck Lisa!



OSU Researcher, Chris Atchison and Jacob B.

OSAA Scholar Alexander S. had the opportunity to attend the WPI Neuroprosthetics Symposium in Worcester, MA this November. This symposium allowed him the opportunity to network with other people in Neuroprosthetic research, a small but growing field related to neuroscience and biomedical engineering. Neural prostheses are a series of devices that can substitute a motor, sensory or cognitive modality that might have been damaged as a result of an injury or a disease.

Congratulations !!!

OSAA Dayton Scholars
Achieving 4.0 GPA
Fall Quarter

Michael L.
Eliza A.
Amanda M.
Jenny B.



Resources and Internship Opportunities for STEM Students

Now is the time to start planning for summer internships and research experiences. Students should be sure to check out the many opportunities available before the deadlines! See your Ability Advisor and check out the Columbus QUAD events on Twitter for additional updates: <http://twitter.com/OSAAOSU>

High School

[Starting Wright](#) - WSU hosted internet programming to promote early post-secondary preparation for students with disabilities interested in pursuing a career in one of the STEM fields.

[Pathways to Science](#) - Institute for Broadening Participation website to assist finding programs such as undergraduate summer research opportunities, graduate fellowships, postdoctoral positions, and recruitment and retention materials.

[Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center \(Due April\)](#) - OSU's Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) Wooster, Ohio. Summer research internship program (ORIP) targeted to provide research experiences for incoming junior and senior high school students and undergraduates.

[NASA Glenn Research Center \(Due Jan 15\)](#) - NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio consists of internships for High School Students, College Students, Secondary School Teachers, and NASA Scholars.

[US Department of Energy](#) - The U.S. Department of Energy offers opportunities across the country for students and faculty.

[Jackson Laboratory \(Due Jan 4\)](#) - The nationally renowned Summer Student Program provides high school and college students with an opportunity to conduct independent research under the guidance of staff scientists.

[National Institutes of Health \(Due Mar 1\)](#) - Training Programs in the Biomedical Sciences.

Undergraduate

National Science Foundation [Research Experiences for Undergraduates](#) (REU)

WSU/OSU colleges and departments - check the websites, contact faculty

[AAAS ENTRY POINT!](#) - is a program of the [American Association for the Advancement of Science \(AAAS\)](#) offering outstanding internship opportunities for students with apparent and non-apparent disabilities in science, engineering, mathematics, computer science, and some fields of business.

[Pathways to Science](#)

[Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center \(Due April\)](#)

[NASA Glenn Research Center \(Due Jan 15\)](#)

[US Department of Energy](#)

[Jackson Laboratory \(Due Jan\)](#)

[National Institutes of Health \(Due Mar 1\)](#)

[ColumbusInternships.com in Science, Engineering, or IT](#) - Internship possibilities for both the student and employers.

[WrightChoice](#) - serves educational institutions, business and non-profit communities by sourcing and developing under-represented talent focusing on career and professional development, job readiness, internship placement, disability inclusion and diversity training.

Graduate

[STEMM Occupations](#); Spring 2007 article written by *Nicholas Terrell an economist in the Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections*

[The IGERT Resource Center](#) - Interdisciplinary graduate education spanning science, technology, engineering, mathematics and social sciences

[Pathways to Science](#)

[US Department of Energy](#)

[NASA Glenn Research Center \(Due Jan 31\)](#)



OSAA Upcoming Events

Mentoring Events at Ohio State

The Mentoring Center of Central Ohio is hosting its annual Fun Day on January 15th from 1-5 pm at Recreation & Physical Activity Center (RPAC) on the Ohio State University Campus (337 W. 17th Avenue, 43210). The cost is free, but you must RSVP! To RSVP, call 614-688-4461 or e-mail osaa@osu.edu by January 5th.

On the following Friday, January 21st, OSAA mentors and mentees will get together for some adapted recreational sports! Participants will learn about adapted recreation sports and have the opportunity to play wheelchair basketball and goal ball while socializing with other students and mentors. OSAA partners are invited to attend! To RSVP, call 614-688-4461 or e-mail osaa@osu.edu by January 17th.

LeDerick Horne Coming to Ohio State

LeDerick Horne is a poet and board chair of Project Eye-to-Eye (projecteyetoeye.org), a national nonprofit which provides mentoring programs for students labeled LD/ADHD. He spent most of his time in school believing he did not have much of a future. A severe learning disability (LD) combined with low self-esteem led him to doubt he would be able to go to college or pursue a meaningful career. But, in the challenging academic environment at Middlesex County College, and with the support offered for his disability through Project Connections, a Learning Disabilities Resource Program at the College, LeDerick became an outstanding student, compiling a 3.75 grade point average. He transferred to New Jersey City University and graduated with honors from NJCU in 2003. LeDerick has facilitated workshops, delivered keynote presentations, and spoken to thousands of students, teachers, and service providers about his experiences. He will be coming to The Ohio State University to speak on March 1st.



Wright State University Residential Campus Experience for High School Students

As a part of its Learning Community programming to promote transition to postsecondary STEM education, Wright State University has begun plans for the second residential campus experience (DIVERSE-ABILITY U.) for high school junior and senior students. Last year's event hosted nineteen students for the five day, four night experience. The event was held on Wright State



2011 Summer Residential Camp
DIVERSEABILITY U.

University campus and provided high school students with disabilities knowledge, hands on experience and opportunities for self discovery to determine if college is in their future. Six half-day academic seminars offered immersive experiences in fields ranging from engineering mathematics to behavioral neuroscience. The date for the 2011 has been tentatively set for July 17-21.

Asperger's Syndrome (AS) Support Group - OSAA Dayton Scholars diagnosed with Asperger's are invited to participate in a biweekly AS Support Group that meets at Wright State University, 023 Student Union, Office of Disability Services. This support group will give you the opportunity to meet new friends in a friendly and nonjudgmental setting allowing you to share your successes and struggles. This can be a valuable tool to increase your social skills. Come and meet with others who are there to support you. For more information and times please contact Dr. Lopez-Garcia at (937)775-5680.



OSAA Upcoming Events

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Recruiting Day - WSU Career Service's is holding their STEM recruiting day in conjunction with WSU's Spring Recruiting Days. The event will be held Wednesday, February 16, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Apollo Room, Student Union, Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glenn Highway, Dayton, Ohio. If you have questions about the event contact Angela Bonza, WrightChoice, Inc. (Dayton office), in the Office of Disability Services, Wright State University, (937) 775-5680, or email employability@wright.edu

EmployAbility Career and Internship Expo for People with disabilities Career-Ready Talent for a Diverse Workforce - March 3, 2011, 9:00. a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Apollo Room, Student Union, Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glenn Highway, Dayton, Ohio. Hosted by Wright State University Career Services and Office of Disability Services, Dayton VA Medical Center, Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley, Montgomery County Job Center, Sinclair Community College, Social Security Administration, WrightChoice, Inc., and Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

During this event employers talk to individuals with disabilities about job opportunities, including non-degree generalist positions, co-op, internship, and career employment opportunities. If you have questions about the EmployAbility Career and Internship Expo for People with disabilities, contact the event coordinator, Angela Bonza, WrightChoice, Inc. (Dayton office), in the Office of Disability Services, Wright State University, (937) 775-5680, or email employability@wright.edu

Future OSAA Activities

Top scoring teams from regional Science Olympiad competitions are invited to compete at the Ohio Science Olympiad on April 30, 2011 at OSU's main campus. Top ranked teams from state competitions will compete in the National Science Olympiad Tournament, May 18-21, 2011. The University of Wisconsin-Madison will proudly host the 27th annual National Science Olympiad Tournament. This same National Science Olympiad Tournament will be held at Wright State University 2013. Science Olympiad features competitions in biology, chemistry, earth science, astronomy, physics and technology science-related competitions for our sharpest middle and high school students.

Residential Student Learning Communities will be held at both the OSU and WSU campuses this summer. Confirmed dates will be coming soon. Please contact Bianca McArrell, (Bianca.McArrell@osumc.edu) at Ohio State University or Cindy Boone, (cynthia.boone@wright.edu) at Wright State University for upcoming details.

Wright State University will be hosting an event for potential graduate students from the Columbus area to visit WSU campus in February. The event will be open to all students interested in attending graduate school with a vision of pursuing a career in a STEM field.

A Year at the Edge (YATE)/Tec^Edge Innovation & Collaboration Center tour. This event will be open to all interested students especially those interested in conducting professional quality research in emerging areas of technology and defense. Details and dates to follow.

OSAA has decided to hold a collaborative Choose Ohio First Scholarship Recognition Ceremony for scholarship recipients at all four alliance institutions in late spring 2011. Details will be announced to all awardees as plans develop.

The Dayton QUAD first winter quarter OSAA Scholar's Meeting will be held January 13, 2011, 7:00 P.M., 156 Endeavor Room, WSU campus. The LwD IGERT fellows will be presenting an overview of their research. The second winter quarter meeting will be February 15 and will feature Linda Glover from NASA. Further information will be forthcoming.



STEM in the News Excerpts from The Ohio STEM Learning Network

Sign Up Now for Real World Design Challenge

Registration is now open for the 2010-2011 Real World Design Challenge (RWDC). The Challenge is totally free to participate in and open to teams of 3-7 high school students. It is an aviation design competition that uses real engineering tools. RWDC sponsors have added some new tools this year, and each teacher that participates gets more than \$1 million in professional engineering software. Teams get access to mentors, and state winners get an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, DC to compete in the National Finals. Please check out www.realworlddesignchallenge.org and sign up.

Middle school students to participate in Global Town Hall meeting focused on STEM

Laptops in hand, students in Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbus will join nearly 1,000 others in an interactive Global Town Hall meeting led by former Vice-President Al Gore on "Math, Science and the Future of our Nation."

This innovative discussion happened Nov. 17 and is part of Time Warner Cable's Connect a Million Minds (or CAMM) project. The cable company has committed five years and \$100 million to the STEM-focused initiative, launched in 2009.

Aimed at encouraging students to seek careers in science, technology, engineering and math, the program involves a technology curriculum, "Cracking the Codes in the Digital World," for after-school programs for middle schoolers. The curriculum is based on national science standards and was developed with North Canton-based Invent Now, Inc.

The Global Town Hall meeting is planned for sixteen Time Warner Cable Markets, including three in Ohio. Students will be part of simultaneous, online viewing parties planned in schools, museums and other venues. Students will explore youth attitudes toward math and science education, and will have a chance to ask questions of an expert panel that includes Gore and physicist and former NASA astronaut Dr. Sally Ride.

"The experience will resemble that of an in-person town hall meeting, except participants will appear -- with live online video and audio -- from wherever in the world they happen to be. Although a few sites were pre-selected to ask a question on camera, all sites have the opportunity to submit questions via email and Twitter," says Time Warner, Southwest Ohio Communications Manager Cynthia Godby.

Though the Town Hall is a planned event, any school with an internet connection can join in by contacting a local Time Warner Cable office, Godby says. After the meeting, students will participate in onsite discussions about ways to make STEM subjects more exciting and appealing for youth locally.

"In Southwest Ohio we are hosting our local town hall at Loveland Intermediate School in Loveland, OH. We have formed a panel of STEM experts and a student who is already inspired by the importance of being strong in STEM. The panelists will discuss why the U.S. ranks 35th in math and 29th in science and what can be done to improve this," Godby says.

OSLN colleagues from the Southwest Ohio Regional STEM Hub, Dr. Nelson Vincent (University of Cincinnati) and Kathy Wright (Hughes STEM High School), will serve as two of the expert panelists.

Source: Cynthia Godby, Time Warner

Writer: Feoshia Henderson