RI Science Teachers Association shares opportunities in science education for teachers and students.

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| **Science Update** |
| November 15, 2015 |

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| Thankful! |
| We are thankful for all of the information that is shared with us to create this newsletter.   If you are interested in any of the opportunities listed, please contact the organization that is listed in the entry.  Please send any items that you consider relevant to other science educators to ristanewsletter@gmail.com \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***Upcoming RISTA Events**Integrating the 3 Dimensions of NGSS***Saturday, December 5th (9-11:30 am) at Winman Junior High in Warwick***SESSION 1 of an NGSS series for K-12 educators Participants will experience a model NGSS aligned activity and identify the three dimensions within the model activity.  After reflecting on the dimensions that were integrated within the model activity, participants will examine a unit of study that they teach to determine how the 3 dimensions can be incorporated.  Finally, participants will work together to develop an action plan of how to increase student focus on the use of specific practices and crosscutting concepts.Free for RISTA members, $5 for non-members[Click here for Registration Details](http://www.rista.us/event-2087870%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)Save the Date for 2016 RISTA Conference*Saturday, March 12th at LaSalle Academy in Providence*2016 Conference plans are being set.  We have confirmed that our keynote speaker will be Page Keeley, past NSTA President and who has authored a number on formative assessment techniques in science classes.  She is a great presenter and we are eager to welcome her to Rhode Island.  Please watch the site for a link to apply to be a presenter at our conference, we hope to get some great proposals for all grade levels.**NGSS Information and Resources:**Accelerated Course Pathways for NGSS are availableThe [NGSS Accelerated Model Course Pathways](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vmgescyedBaio9nHhVjicgPTg0uZ-veSUvlotYumIboXT9qu6SfjIdm_wRvYqLXaV99rA0f1PrR1HxQBzQJv0th0aB5tq4zAB82rGCmU9IABol4iQi682guFIlbGSo4J1ITp6ha-HkRv0R4xCuWyuCa1oT013DfP5YZ_nhtEZjy_SBFWoA_yJQoRcYTnSXZAFML2-YV3Zhf3dHKzh7p70A==&c=fVZRjIAwSwTF4M745yVyAS8CfPNK-0_ulb-eQX9J-9iCq_V-fWWrUA==&ch=TOB4x0crEbIXcHrqA_ZeTf2AbxQmK1RKLH8EwRWNUcyPH0AlML1l3A==" \t "_blank) offer guidance to schools and districts seeking to organize NGSS performance expectations into a compressed time frame for high-achieving students. Watch this [brief overview video](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vmgescyedBaio9nHhVjicgPTg0uZ-veSUvlotYumIboXT9qu6SfjIWptG3oLXUf8ytoA4t8DQMkM5fWo3n1FNubuXUiX1oi3m8JXWHbUpDKF6yw1VHUnLF01UzaDp8S8SHztLMaJJ2F6Dc_T9bCWetC5hRlcw4q6MVVMU6YzOB9z_-QKlLfmXPF3sIhb1YAd2UEm3WKDE-nQswbDzwKmNGgmiN__PcViSQG6VJfzCSY=&c=fVZRjIAwSwTF4M745yVyAS8CfPNK-0_ulb-eQX9J-9iCq_V-fWWrUA==&ch=TOB4x0crEbIXcHrqA_ZeTf2AbxQmK1RKLH8EwRWNUcyPH0AlML1l3A==" \t "_blank) and see five highlights from the resource below.**5 Key Takeaways** The accelerated pathways are designed to support, not replace, existing NGSS implementation efforts. The accelerated pathways offer additional options to students who want or need to pursue advanced-level science courses earlier in middle or high school, and at a more rapid pace.   The accelerated pathways outlined in the document are only starting points - not finished products. Districts and schools must determine whether and how to structure opportunities for students.   This document explores NGSS accelerated pathway links to Advanced Placement (AP) science courses, but this should not limit districts and schools from considering other advanced science courses. As an additional resource for these pathways, three appendices ([A](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vmgescyedBaio9nHhVjicgPTg0uZ-veSUvlotYumIboXT9qu6SfjIWptG3oLXUf8qaJLlKC-RcFYrmBkPFTzyYsnnaVwMm-X4vyrDGxBBdGBnu8MHcdMJRSjuOC_y4ZJwgrmzD9_440EuETWekYoLxGyAlkiKmFZ0L6MlyRxTbwAP92yGfotIOginGNhTGaHvuEr-ezQVA_ca36OzIbAL_dC4kUuqAM52gq22zZVG26exg_0oV0TgkdWpfJG8GFo&c=fVZRjIAwSwTF4M745yVyAS8CfPNK-0_ulb-eQX9J-9iCq_V-fWWrUA==&ch=TOB4x0crEbIXcHrqA_ZeTf2AbxQmK1RKLH8EwRWNUcyPH0AlML1l3A==" \t "_blank), [B](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vmgescyedBaio9nHhVjicgPTg0uZ-veSUvlotYumIboXT9qu6SfjIWptG3oLXUf8yV56-c-Aatr2_lQ-Vf9Lqu0hgazg1d5m8QEbw58uYPGi7_EMudzOhGxv2lRMlQK6QIZnYLAkjZVl31q6bOcpevNwJFqbpMOFViF08f-eJ4lCHPjbKx3I9bnDpiyH6Mbla0uwcLGTeL7bk2Vnq9TKUxvVwgp9d0J0xWT6I2T12uIZCKvqz7AVHJSdotcwwcxoibkJziswMhE=&c=fVZRjIAwSwTF4M745yVyAS8CfPNK-0_ulb-eQX9J-9iCq_V-fWWrUA==&ch=TOB4x0crEbIXcHrqA_ZeTf2AbxQmK1RKLH8EwRWNUcyPH0AlML1l3A==" \t "_blank), and [C](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vmgescyedBaio9nHhVjicgPTg0uZ-veSUvlotYumIboXT9qu6SfjIWptG3oLXUf8B1IppAmkTrD-ZxNAQMnYEspYgy3_AQ7ZWD4el3kt4MaRm9sMYmmrlB2kRxH9-p_VsjDDyrLEMQHr0pnCrK_mYPED4zd2r6AVe6P1nYhleQoBnR7aIl7vjRkbSgrxQCOChAPiOAbsU0dlwTnhQe1T4yQ9J4bz50pEtUZV3rj1TtMN6KLu14TQua-p9LeuIW5y&c=fVZRjIAwSwTF4M745yVyAS8CfPNK-0_ulb-eQX9J-9iCq_V-fWWrUA==&ch=TOB4x0crEbIXcHrqA_ZeTf2AbxQmK1RKLH8EwRWNUcyPH0AlML1l3A==" \t "_blank)) identify connections between NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas and AP Essential Knowledge statements for AP Biology, Physics, and Chemistry - that is, the appendices describe how the NGSS lay the foundation for AP coursework. These appendices could be used by schools as they plan for providing AP courses to advanced students.   The [National Association for Gifted Children](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vmgescyedBaio9nHhVjicgPTg0uZ-veSUvlotYumIboXT9qu6SfjIbnVErQXOiVakNVqeJx6ooW1ETKBswzy1OJm-ZRRhClmW5c54B2sTrwihTW_Usev61usZltmWmsaT3rzmxCpYQE_9XMJRgpIMmehXsGxX3L-JuUhm-7koT8=&c=fVZRjIAwSwTF4M745yVyAS8CfPNK-0_ulb-eQX9J-9iCq_V-fWWrUA==&ch=TOB4x0crEbIXcHrqA_ZeTf2AbxQmK1RKLH8EwRWNUcyPH0AlML1l3A==" \t "_blank) (NAGC) provided a statement of support for the Accelerated Model Course Pathways. Read it [here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vmgescyedBaio9nHhVjicgPTg0uZ-veSUvlotYumIboXT9qu6SfjIWptG3oLXUf8CRyTTJj7T4tDqT5Le53LkjbzmftzHXcmL4aCDUjwD2MAsyDDFDU1RRfT2NtXQ-l_P_QN5x2DhznQKHAnb5wg6eNp-Ub9ze9a6ejLf3jMfH9Fr_dXpJYOB9TLu-XtBno6LMSsy5ajaZqTOCEl1hUShu9p4cBTR0zz&c=fVZRjIAwSwTF4M745yVyAS8CfPNK-0_ulb-eQX9J-9iCq_V-fWWrUA==&ch=TOB4x0crEbIXcHrqA_ZeTf2AbxQmK1RKLH8EwRWNUcyPH0AlML1l3A==" \t "_blank). STEM Teaching ToolsIf you have not already checked out the STEM Teaching Tools, you need to!  Philip Bell of the University of Washington has created a number of one page handouts that are perfect for professional development as well as to inform parents and other stakeholders of how science instruction is changing.  He is always looking for additional topics, so reach out to him if you have an idea.  The website has the handouts in pdf files and invites you to take them to print as you need them.  Check it out at [www.stemteachingtools.org](http://www.stemteachingtools.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)Teaching Channel NGSS ResourcesThe Teaching Channel has some videos that show teachers using NGSS in their classrooms.  They worked with Achieve to find good teaching examples so other teachers can see NGSS in action.  Find the videos at[http://www.nextgenscience.org/new-classroom-videos-demonstrating-transitions-ngss](http://www.nextgenscience.org/new-classroom-videos-demonstrating-transitions-ngss%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)Great blog on Teaching Channel from Sean Elkins of Kentucky, another NGSS adopted state.  Gives a nice perspective on implementing NGSS effectively.  Read it at:   [https://www.teachingchannel.org/blog/2015/10/16/ngss-classrooms-achieve/](https://www.teachingchannel.org/blog/2015/10/16/ngss-classrooms-achieve/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)Teachers collaborating with engineers from Boeing are creating some great problem-based curricula.  Check out what they have completed to this point, they work nicely with NGSS when looking to cover the engineering standards.  [https://www.teachingchannel.org/engineering-curriculum-boeing](https://www.teachingchannel.org/engineering-curriculum-boeing%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**Opportunities & Resources for Teachers:**Safety Alert: Do Not Use Methanol-Based Flame Tests on Open Laboratory DesksNSTA has issued a its first ever safety alert.  Please read about the risks [at their site](http://www.nsta.org/safety/flametests.aspx%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) to understand the problem and alternatives that are available.Loraine Tisdale Environmental Education Fund awards- deadline this week!The Environment Council of Rhode Island’s (ECRI) Education Fund is pleased to announce that we are opening the application process for the Ninth Annual Loraine Tisdale Environmental Education Fund awards.Each year ECRI’s Education Fund gives out small grants to Rhode Island schools and school-based after-school programs for hands on environmental projects by students that benefit the local environment.  Schools and after-school programs can request an application from the ECRI’s Education Fund, or download one at  [http://www.environmentcouncilri.org/news/applications-2016-tisdale-awards-now-available](http://www.environmentcouncilri.org/news/applications-2016-tisdale-awards-now-available%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)We are pleased to offer 3 grants of up to $250 in support of school-based projects that:1.  Have student participation 2.  Lead to measurable improvement in an environmental condition 3.  Involve the community beyond a school in some wayAll Rhode Island schools and school-based after-school programs are encouraged to apply, and an ECRI Education Fund representative will be happy to answer any questions to help schools with their project application. We can be contacted either by email here or by phone at 621-8048.Independent environmental professionals will review all applications and three schools or school-based after-school programs will receive $250 to carry out their projects. Over the last 8 years, schools all over Rhode Island have been awarded these grants for water quality, school garden, recycling, composting, and alternative energy projects. The Loraine Tisdale Environmental Education Awards honor a woman whose energy for a just and healthy environment was legendary. Mrs. Tisdale held an undergraduate degree in chemistry and a degree in nursing. For many years she led an organization that addressed safety and health issues concerning pesticides.**The application deadline is November 20, 2015** and awards will be made in January 2016 for projects to be undertaken in the spring of 2016.  Application and further information is available here [http://www.environmentcouncilri.org/news/applications-2016-tisdale-awards-now-available](http://www.environmentcouncilri.org/news/applications-2016-tisdale-awards-now-available%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)Apply for Michelson ExxonMobil Teacher Academy by November 20thThe school year has only just begun, but if you're a third- to fifth-grade teacher, it's not too early to think about your summer plans! The Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy, a partnership among professional golfer Phil Mickelson, ExxonMobil, NSTA, and Math Solutions, will take place at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, New Jersey, in July 2016. Applications are currently being accepted!This unique program provides third- to fifth-grade teachers with an all-expense-paid, week-long professional learning experience that equips them with new ways to inspire their students in math and science. For more information and to apply to the Academy—or nominate a fellow teacher—go to [www.sendmyteacher.com](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=80857621&m=10931259&u=NSTA&j=29543170&s=http://www.sendmyteacher.com" \t "_blank)  Please share this with the teachers in your school today and join the almost 5,000 teachers nationwide who have attended since 2005.Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching (PAEMST) Nominations are open**The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST),**the nation’s highest honor for teachers of mathematics and science, has opened its 2015 – 2016 nomination and application period for elementary (K-6th) teachers. PAEMST is awarded annually to exceptional K-12 educators throughout the nation, alternating each year between K-6 and 7-12 grades.We encourage you to nominate an exceptional teacher you may know, or if you’re a teacher yourself, to being an application. Being a PAEMST awardee is a tremendous honor. Recipients will gather in Washington, D.C. for  a series of events as tribute to their accomplishments, will receive a certificate signed by the President and a $10,000 award from the National Science Foundation (NSF).The 2015-2016 **nomination deadline is April 1, 2016**, and the **application deadline is May 1, 2016**, so consider nominating a talented teacher or submitting a self-nomination on the [PAEMST website](http://www.paemst.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)Free RI Energy Workshop from NEED – December 16th at Deering MS in West WarwickThe NEED Project designs and delivers teacher-tested educational materials, evaluation techniques and tools, recognition of student achievement, and professional development for educators. NEED materials and training programs provide comprehensive, objective information about the scientific concepts of energy and the sources of energy – their use and their impact on the environment, the economy and society.  [See agenda and information.](http://www.rista.us/resources/Documents/2015%20December%20Workshop%20Recruitment.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)Contact Wendi Moss with questions at wmoss@need.orgSurvey for RI STEAM Now CoalitionThe **Rhode Island *STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts + design, mathematics)* Now Coalition**is a broad alliance of nearly 250 individuals from across the state representing business, education, and government, organized and coordinated by the Rhode Island STEM Center.  We are working together to develop a STEAM-literate population in Rhode Island who will possess the skills to become productive citizens in the 21st century and who will have the capacity to contribute and invigorate the Rhode Island economy.One of our action items is to identify current and potential STEM/STEAM programs and partnerships so that as a state, we can establish efficient channels for collaboration, increase productive communication, and support the scaling up of quality STEAM learning experiences.  Please share your information with us and complete this brief 10-minute survey **[http://tinyurl.com/RI-Education-Survey](http://tinyurl.com/RI-Education-Survey%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**Please note that this survey is for informational purposes only.  The name of your school and other identifying information will allow us to look comprehensively at the education landscape in Rhode Island to help us move forward as a state. Apply for a year-long PD Opportunity in Marine & Ocean ScienceThe Marine Technology for Teachers and Students (MaTTS) Project, based at the University of Rhode Island’s Inner Space Center and the  University of Connecticut’s Avery Point campus, will be accepting high school teachers for a year-long professional development opportunity. The project focuses on providing teachers and students hands on and virtual experiences with new technologies related to exploring the global ocean and discovering pathways to marine careers using these new tools. Participating teachers will engage colleagues and students at their school, receive training, and gain experience in marine and ocean science technologies and receive a stipend.Application deadline is Friday, January 8, 2015.  For more information and to apply, please visit: [www.mattsproject.org](http://www.mattsproject.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). Fellowship with the American Physiological SocietyThe American Physiological Society’s Frontiers Online Professional Development Fellowship is a dynamic interactive virtual learning community that focuses on exploring effective teaching strategies, understanding the research process, and enhancing classroom resources.  Fellows receive stipends for completion of their online work in the 10-month program and graduate credit is available. Learn more at [www.frontiersinphys.org](http://www.frontiersinphys.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), click on the Online Fellows link.NOAA Climate Stewards Webinar on Using Simple Models in Climate EducationMonday, December 7th at 7:30 pm Eastern TimeSpace is Limited. Reserve Your Spot at:  [https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6452873585196379906](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6452873585196379906%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)  *After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.*The NOAA Climate Stewards Education Project is pleased to welcome Dr. Randy Russell, a science educator at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado as the featured speaker for our December webinar. This webinar takes a deep dive into the use of simple models in climate education. Dr. Russell will explore some fundamental concepts of climate science that allow students to use simple models to actively investigate the scientific concepts. He'll start with a basic calculation of the "theoretical" global average temperature of our home planet - first walking through the science and math behind the calculations, then using a simple computer-based model that allows students to explore multiple "what if" scenarios. Next, he'll look at the Greenhouse Effect's impact on global temperatures and present a physical model that illustrates the Greenhouse Effect and the layered structure of Earth's atmosphere. After that, Dr. Russell will present how some straightforward math connects anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions with future global temperatures - and then explore another computer-based simulation that allows students to test the impact of various emission scenarios on future global temperatures. Finally, Dr. Russell will take a look at an extensive online list of simulations, games, and virtual labs for climate education. Time permitting, he'll show some Greenhouse Effect simulations and a paleoclimate (tree rings) simulation. Inner Space Center Educational ProgramsThe ISC offers [educational programs](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001dD4ObqfvFaniw6pNw7pjONAgqB5EWcs5ux7xNk8xZTb9ad_yJeWI_sw0idBET_SSQ5MlUZohsNX5hNr4vVxCNgTgL4CPIOD-lQqJX7k03J28D9g2AP2O42aVxDJleTNDqiY5etva0SwKnZ-oAXCrJbY82JG-lAaVb_X5tzhfqKgCZYfJ4L860XsJbSwEy3pl-wmofz8zDfd8FDBLotV7Rw3yeh__duRY&c=6mDo2qnjmxYMTN4kW_8db_Zwg6UOtAD6ExkNNOo56GdMd4pw_5C3EA==&ch=kKm-ZLtraqI4CBs4kylSYA1qqNhfQpKHp1sQm_fn9-xHREnagMd_9Q==" \t "_blank) for school, youth, and public groups on a variety of topics, including the unknown ocean, sound in the sea, and hurricanes.  All of our programs are led by an ocean scientist with expertise in the area.  Groups can also add a behind-the-scenes tour of our facility, which includes mission control, the production suite, and studio. Groups can also choose to have an educational program done at their location or conducted virtually from the ISC.  For more information, contact the ISC Communications Coordinator, Romy Pizziconi, romy@uri.edu Upcoming NEACT Division Meeting on Spectroscopy and Astronomy in the High School ClassroomWhen: Saturday **December 5th**, 2015 from 8:30am to 12:00pm Where: Parsons Lodge at Pomfret School in Pomfret, CT.  Please see the link for more information. [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SbcZk3vILcU7P4yl0T-Q5C4YkDwfvRbNHqGDB22IQyk/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SbcZk3vILcU7P4yl0T-Q5C4YkDwfvRbNHqGDB22IQyk/edit?usp=sharing" \t "_blank) Christopher Reddy to Present the 2015 Gehrenbeck LectureDr. Christopher Reddy (Rhode Island College ’92) of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution will deliver the twentieth annual Richard K. Gehrenbeck Memorial Lecture on the History of Science on Tuesday, November 24, at 8:00 PM in Clarke Science 125 at Rhode Island College.  The lecture, *Lessons Learned from Pollution over the Past Century,* is intended for a general audience.  All are invited to attend the lecture. The lecture is sponsored by the Gehrenbeck Fund in the Rhode Island College Foundation and by the Physical Sciences Department. For more information and a flier with an abstract of the talk, visit [http://www.ric.edu/faculty/organic/gehrenbeck/](http://www.ric.edu/faculty/organic/gehrenbeck/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)  Background: Dr. Chris Reddy has studied the effects of pollution on the environment since he investigated the 1996 North Cape oil spill off Moonstone Beach in in South Kingstown.  He has become a leading expert in analysis and tracking of oil spills by using sophisticated instrumental methods.  Since this Gehrenbeck Lecture has a focus on the history of science, Dr. Reddy will take a retrospective look at a century’s worth of pollution. The Amgen Foundation Biotech ExperienceThe Amgen Foundation announced that it will invest more than $4 million to support and strengthen the[Amgen Biotech Experience](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=84808628&m=11442255&u=NSTA&j=30795921&s=https://www.amgenbiotechexperience.com/" \t "_blank) program across the United States, Puerto Rico, United Kingdom and Ireland. This new commitment will also strengthen the program's alignment with Next Generation Science Standards, which are focused on engaging students in more authentic science learning experiences. With the support of Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), the global nonprofit leading the Amgen Biotech Experience Program Office, the investment is expected to empower 1,000 teachers who will reach more than 150,000 new students with the labs over the next two years.The Amgen Biotech Experience is an innovative science education program that provides teacher professional development, teaching materials, and research-grade equipment and supplies to secondary schools. The program features a hands-on molecular biology curriculum that introduces students to the excitement of scientific discovery. Each year, over 70,000 students and hundreds of science teachers participate and have the opportunity to explore the methods scientists use to create biotechnology medicines.Climate Change Communication- A New Approach Join us in learning about strategic framing- a research-based approach to communication that engages audiences in thinking productively about how they can participate in creating or supporting solutions to climate change.Thursday, December 10, 2015 | 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Save The Bay, Providence, RIThis one day workshop will:* Introduce participants to the National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation (NNOCCI)- a community of colleagues who share an interest in stimulating dialog about how we can all participate in addressing issues of ocean and climate change
* Introduce participants to the elements of strategic framing such as tone, values, explanatory metaphors, and solutions
* Provide an opportunity for participants to practice applying what they learn
* Increase participants’ confidence in their ability to overcome barriers to interpreting climate change issues

Target Audiences: informal science educators, communications staff, journalists, scientists, and other interested parties.There is no cost to attend this workshop, but pre-registration is required. A light breakfast and lunch are included. Seats are limited so please reserve yours today: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XKHK6RT.Facilitators: Annette Brickley, Science Education Consultant with Buttonwood Park Zoo and Kati Maginel, Education Specialist at Save The Bay. Both are active members of the NNOCCI network who have participated in intensive learning programs called “study circles” and have practiced with strategic framing in their workplaces.Contact: Jennifer West, jennifer@nbnerr.org, 401-222-4700, x 7413 Tangible Thinking - The Intersection of Art, Design, Math, & ScienceArt League of Rhode Island Opens Season with “Tangible Thinking” Sept. 12th, VETS Gallery, Providence.  This is free and open to the public, student groups are welcome!Tangible Thinking - The Intersection of Art, Design, Math, & Science, a program of the Art League of RI will take place from September 12, 2015 through January 19, 2016 at the group’s VETS Gallery, One Avenue of the Arts, in Providence, RI.The gallery is open Thursday through Saturday from noon to 3pm and on Gallery Night, Thursday, Sept. 17th from 5-9pm. The opening reception will be held on September 18th from 5:30-8pm. Entrance to the VETS Gallery is on the Park Street side of the Veterans Memorial Auditorium.  See entire [press release here](http://www.rista.us/Resources/Documents/Tangible%20Thinking%20PR%20%281%29.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) as well as [printable poster](http://www.rista.us/Resources/Documents/Tangible%20Thinking%20poster%2018X24%20%28original%29.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) to display and [directions to the venue](http://www.rista.us/Resources/Documents/THE%20VETS%20GALLERY%20MAP.png%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)RI Nature Video Festival  Saturday February 6, 2016 at 1 PM   Metcalf Auditorium  RISD Museum,  N Main St,  ProvidenceRhode island has an abundance of nature and these days many people carry a camera capable of taking video.  It would be great to gather RI Nature videos for a 4 hour showing and bring the nature video makers together.  It will be a most interesting and entertaining event.  So here is a call for submissions to the Rhode Island Nature Video Festival being organized by the Environment Council of Rhode Island, a coalition of more than 60 Rhode Island environmental organizations.  [Review the rules](http://www.rista.us/Resources/Documents/RI%20Nature%20Video%20Festival%20Rules.docx%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) and send us your links.  Submission deadline is December 10 2015 for an event that will be held on February 6,  2016. Tickets will, go on sale in December.  Links for videos being submitted should be sent to environmentcouncil@earthlink.net     Questions can be directed to the same email address or if you prefer you may call the Environment Council office at [401-621-8048](file://localhost/tel/401-621-8048%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).  Registration Now Open for Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision ProgramRegistration for the 24th annual Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision program—the world's largest K–12 student science competition—is now open. The deadline for all project submissions is **February 1, 2016.**Through the competition, teams of 2 to 4 students are challenged to research scientific principles and current technologies as the basis for designing innovative technologies that could exist in 20 years. Students simulate real scientific research to outline how they plan to test their ideas and create mock websites to illustrate concepts. Student participants will have a chance to win a number of great prizes, including $10,000 U.S. Series EE Savings Bonds (at maturity). Canadian winners receive Canada bonds purchased for the equivalent issue price in Canadian dollars. And to celebrate ExploraVision's 24th anniversary, the top 24 teachers who submit 24 eligible online entries will receive a Toshiba tablet.Teachers can learn more information by visiting the [frequently asked questions page](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=81349648&m=10995279&u=NSTA&j=29681412&s=http://www.exploravision.org/faqs" \t "_blank) on the competition [website](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=81349649&m=10995279&u=NSTA&j=29681412&s=http://www.exploravision.org/" \t "_blank) NSTA ConferencesNSTA conferences offer the latest in science/STEM content, pedagogy, and research to enhance and expand your professional growth. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to collaborate with science education leaders and your peers. Each year, NSTA hosts a national conference on science education (in the spring), three area conferences (in the fall), and a STEM Forum & Expo. [Learn more](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=80910373&m=10941290&u=NSTA&j=29564216&s=http://www.nsta.org/conferences/" \t "_blank)Upcoming conferences:Kansas City: Dec. 3–5, 2015 Nashville (National): Mar. 31–Apr. 3, 2016 STEM Forum & Expo: Denver, July 27–29, 2016Share Your Good Ideas! Present at the 2016 NSTA STEM ForumNSTA is now accepting proposals for the 5th Annual STEM Forum & Expo, hosted by NSTA—which will be held in Denver, July 27–29, 2016. The deadline for submissions is 11:59 PM on Friday, January 15, 2016. Visit the [NSTA website](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=84808646&m=11442255&u=NSTA&j=30795921&s=http://www.nsta.org/conferences/sessions.aspx" \t "_blank) for more information and to submit a proposal. Please e-mail lcrossley@nsta.org if you have any questions.**For Students:**GE Star Awards CompetitionThe [GE STAR Awards](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=84808649&m=11442255&u=NSTA&j=30795921&s=https://www.gestarawards.org/" \t "_blank) competition, now in its 13th year, is open to high school seniors, who are children of eligible GE employees and retirees worldwide. The award will defray first-year higher education expenses. Recipients, chosen through a selective application process, are awarded a one-time award that will go toward a four-year college or two-year community college/vocational-technical school. Finalists also select a teacher from their current secondary school to recognize and to guide the use of an award to the school.For more info on GE scholarship programs, visit the [GE Foundation website](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=84808650&m=11442255&u=NSTA&j=30795921&s=http://www.gefoundation.com/education/scholarships-programs/" \t "_blank).*World of 7 Billion* Video ContestBack by popular demand, the *World of 7 Billion*student video contest can help you bring technology and creativity into your middle and high school classes. The contest challenges your students to create a short (60 seconds or less) video illustrating the connection between world population growth and one of three global challenges dealing with either Deforestation, Public Health, or Water Scarcity. Students can win up to $1,000 and their teachers will receive free curriculum resources. The contest deadline is February 25, 2016. Full contest guidelines, resources for research, past winners, and more can be found at [www.worldof7billion.org/student-video-contest](http://www.worldof7billion.org/student-video-contest%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).Participate in the *You Be The Chemist*Challenge® in Rhode IslandThe *You Be The Chemist* Challenge®, run by the Chemical Educational Foundation (CEF), is an interactive academic contest that encourages students in grades 5-8 to explore chemistry concepts and their real-world applications. The Challenge provides a unique opportunity for a variety of individuals and organizations—including schools, members of the chemical industry, educators, and other community partners—to come together and show their support for STEM education. Rhode Island will be participating in the program for the first time this year! In addition to the Challenge, the Chemical Educational Foundation also offers the *You Be The Chemist®*Activity Guides (Lesson Plans for Making Chemistry Fun) and the *You Be The Chemist*Essential Elements℠ program (a professional development workshop for K-8 educators). To learn more about CEF’s programs and how to get involved, visit [www.chemed.org](http://www.chemed.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)The NAE is pleased to announce the annual EngineerGirl Essay ContestThe National Academy of Engineering invites students (both boys and girls) in grades 3-12 to submit an essay about how they would protect the environment and the safety, health, and well-being of the public as a responsible engineer.Cash prizes of $500, $250, and $100 are available for the best essays in each of 3 age categories.  We want to hear from you! Submit your essay by February 1, 2016 at 6:00 pm EST. Find out more at [www.engineergirl.org/2016contest.aspx](http://www.engineergirl.org/2016contest.aspx%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)MIT Women's Technology ProgramThe [Women's Technology Program](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=80910375&m=10941290&u=NSTA&j=29564216&s=http://wtp.mit.edu/" \t "_blank) (WTP) goal is to spark high school girls' interest in the study of engineering and computer science. WTP is a rigorous four-week summer academic and residential experience where female high school students explore engineering through hands-on classes, labs, and team-based projects in the summer after 11th grade. Information about WTP 2016 and the application will be available in November 2015.Students attend WTP in either [Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS)](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=80910376&m=10941290&u=NSTA&j=29564216&s=http://wtp.mit.edu/eecs/index.html" \t "_blank) or [Mechanical Engineering (ME)](http://www.mmsend53.com/link.cfm?r=2061533959&sid=80910377&m=10941290&u=NSTA&j=29564216&s=http://web.mit.edu/wtp-me/" \t "_blank) |

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