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

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| http://www.rista.us/Resources/Pictures/RISTA%20logo%20small.png | |  | | --- | | **Science Update** | | December 1, 2015 | |

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| Wishing you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season! |
| 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  Engineering a Better World: Global Challenges with Local Solutions  ***Monday, December 14th (3-5 pm) at LaSalle Academy in Providence***  Ann Kaiser will present a hands-on workshop that focuses on the idea of using appropriate, small-scale local technologies to meet global challenges based on the Sustainable Development Goals announced by the UN this year.  Participants will learn about ways to frame Engineering Challenges to support the inclusion of science and math concepts while seeking ways to develop culturally appropriate and economically feasible technologies. Several hands-on activities will be included and participants will receive planning resources to use in their classrooms. Challenges focused on housing, water use, and light will be highlighted. This workshop is appropriate for middle and high school teachers. This curriculum is based on a highly transdisciplinary engineering approach and math, social studies, and art teachers are also welcome.  ProjectEngin has been working on a series of curriculum modules that focus on idea of thinking globally and acting locally. An early version of one module was featured on the American Society of Engineering Education website earlier this year. (http://teachers.egfi-k12.org/disaster-proof-housing/) Give STEM a new meaning in your classroom – Sustainable, Transdisciplinary, Empathetic, Meaningful. Empower your students to see solutions, not just problems while increasing their global view.  [Click here for Registration Details](http://www.rista.us/event-2090282" \t "_blank)  Invitation to Present at the 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 consider presenting to fellow science educators!  We are looking for science educators from K-16 to present on topics related to NGSS, including lesson ideas and useful resources.  [Apply online](http://goo.gl/forms/3PoAV7Sv03" \t "_blank), deadline is January 8th.  **NGSS Information and Resources:**  NGSS@NSTA Hub  55 trained curators have been seeking out quality resources.  Curators are science educators who teach K-12 and have been trained by NSTA to vet resources for each of the NGSS Performance Expectations.  The resources are being uploaded as the resources are reviewed, some PEs are not complete.  Check out the site at[ngss.nsta.org](http://www.ngss.nsta.org/" \t "_blank) and click on ‘The Standards’ tab.  Choose the PE that you need a resource for and scroll to the bottom of the page, resources will be listed at the bottom right corner.  Check back for additional resources!  Accelerated Course Pathways for NGSS are available  The NGSS Accelerated Model Course Pathways 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 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, B, and C) 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 (NAGC) provided a statement of support for the Accelerated Model Course Pathways. Read it here.  STEM Teaching Tools  If 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  **Opportunities & Resources for Teachers:**  Safety Alert: Do Not Use Methanol-Based Flame Tests on Open Laboratory Desks  NSTA has issued a its first ever safety alert.  Please read about the risks at their site to understand the problem and alternatives that are available.  Rhode Island Nature Video Festival  **The deadline for submitting videos to be included in the Rhode Island Nature Video Festival is December 10, 2015.**  Please check out the instructions and rules for submission that are on the web at  [http://www.environmentcouncilri.org/content/2016-rhode-island-nature-video-festival](http://www.environmentcouncilri.org/content/2016-rhode-island-nature-video-festival" \t "_blank)  Video links should be submitted to [environmentcouncil@earthlink.net](mailto:environmentcouncil@earthlink.net" \t "_blank)  The Festival will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2016 1:00pm Metcalf Auditorium, Rhode Island School of Design Museum, 20 North Main Street, Providence, RI 02903   The Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI) with the support of **Ocean State Bird Club, Roger Williams Park Zoo, Save The Bay, and The Nature Conservancy** is organizing a Nature Video Festival to showcase the abundant, diverse and scenic beauty of the natural wonders of Rhode Island. Currently, devices that capture video are nearly ubiquitous resulting in endless opportunities to record a wide variety of content. Our 2016 Nature Video Festival aims to bring nature videographers of all ages together to showcase their best work capturing the natural wonders of Rhode Island. We hope to be able to showcase approximately 4 hours of content for the festival. We already have about 2 hours of videos submitted.  Tickets will go on sale in mid December.   Watch an Video Introduction to the Festival here: [https://youtu.be/cQ7W9m8PGEU](https://youtu.be/cQ7W9m8PGEU" \t "_blank)  Those who submit a video that is selected for the Festival will be entitled to free admission.   Questions can be submitted [here](mailto:environmentcouncil@earthlink.net?subject=Re%3A%202016%20RI%20Nature%20Video%20Festival" \t "_blank), or if you prefer, you can call the ECRI office at: [401-621-8048](file://localhost/tel/401-621-8048" \t "_blank).    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  Learning Technology and Engineering at a Young Age  December 9 at 6:30 p.m.at Lincoln School, 301 Butler Avenue, Providence  Free and open to the public  Dr. Bers will discuss the importance of providing opportunities for young children to learn about technology and engineering in a developmentally appropriate way. Sharing a decade and a half of research, she will engage the audience with examples of how children can learn programming concepts using **KIBO robots**and **[ScratchJr](http://email.lincoln.myenotice.com/c/eJxlT8FqxSAQ_Bo9irpqkoOHQnm_UazGxNbowxjC-_tuSqCHwsLODMvMTrAQuQaarORCCyEGAUoqwwyoSTIj1UAUz6n4mgvbXnOpPfmZ-brR1Wo_yE8jtTMwmTg6NQktQXMTdBhGpWm2a-9PAm9EPnDO82S31-7XWjOrbUHdx49f4_hCggffsbbTtcB83Ag8NpfychQC74JIc20wwBEel2TGUSKeLwwcAHGY9470X_bum-t-_Wp3Lm02PI-luJywZSp9bsX1VFHwq2tI_96kd_UU7JX-A4LvYSQ" \t "_blank)** As a professor at the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development and the Computer Science Department at Tufts University, Dr. Bers heads the interdisciplinary **[DevTech research group](http://email.lincoln.myenotice.com/c/eJxVkNtqxCAQhp_GXIo6atILLwrLvkZxPSS2RoMxDfv2nZSFUhiY7_8Z5uQNRKZgSEYwrjjnIwcppKYa5JugWsiRSJZTcTUXuj5DqT25QF1dh8UoPipuvRgnLERyPIKT8JgmsPBQashm6X0j8E7EHeM8T_rqtbul1kxrm9F38eO3cXyiwIKvWNtpm6curgTuq015PgqBGydCXxk0MMTjsvQ0CeRwMTAAZB_2jvLfbLsH2o_Ydxr8gdqH7x7cgrS1-hlc3xGHZvx2zMXmhGen0kMrtqeKhltsQ_m39_D6RfLmWucHRRpnLw" \t "_blank)**[.](http://email.lincoln.myenotice.com/c/eJxVkNtqxCAQhp_GXIo6atILLwrLvkZxPSS2RoMxDfv2nZSFUhiY7_8Z5uQNRKZgSEYwrjjnIwcppKYa5JugWsiRSJZTcTUXuj5DqT25QF1dh8UoPipuvRgnLERyPIKT8JgmsPBQashm6X0j8E7EHeM8T_rqtbul1kxrm9F38eO3cXyiwIKvWNtpm6curgTuq015PgqBGydCXxk0MMTjsvQ0CeRwMTAAZB_2jvLfbLsH2o_Ydxr8gdqH7x7cgrS1-hlc3xGHZvx2zMXmhGen0kMrtqeKhltsQ_m39_D6RfLmWucHRRpnLw" \t "_blank)  Her research involves the design and study of innovative learning technologies to promote positive youth development.  **RSVP:**  **[Please let us know](http://email.lincoln.myenotice.com/c/eJyFkMGKwyAQhp_GHEUdtdlDDgulp976AMU1mkiNBmMIffsdS2CPC8L8_z8y3zDjAJ4p6MIgGFec8wsHKaSmGuSXoFrIC5EshmRzTHR5u5RrsI7avHTzwHrGemBMKWN_lLdCeWM814pLraWzXRzmWlcC30Tc8B3HQc9Zm51zjjSXCXPrn5_B_o0GP7x8LocpI7V-IXBbTIjTnghcORG6VdDAUO4t0n0vULumgQGgHt1W0Tb29i98NZM7QbjpVUrZKPdsX4_HHYNadkcEFDeFrRZTQ05dGcZ1n5KJAa8TUnUlfRom2tkUtH-E7jxZGIe29S_9Q3Rq" \t "_blank)**  Free RI Energy Workshop from NEED – December 16th at Deering MS in West Warwick  The 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.  Contact Wendi Moss with questions at wmoss@need.org  RESEARCH SCIENCE INSTITUTE (RSI)  The Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) co-sponsor the Research Science Institute (RSI) and are looking for talented 11th Grade STEM Students! Do you have an interest in Science Technology Engineering or Mathematics and a desire to complete a research program at an unforgettable summer research program?  Apply to the (RSI) program to be held on the MIT campus June 26 to August 6, 2016. You will meet some of the world's most talented students and top scientists and have an opportunity to conduct research in exciting labs!  The program is free to students except for travel to and from MIT. If you are a high school junior and interested in the program, take a look at the CEE website or RSI application materials, and more information about the program.  See application information at:  [http://www.cee.org/apply-rsi](http://www.cee.org/apply-rsi" \t "_blank)  If you’re interested and have any questions, please contact Maite Ballestero, Executive Vice President, Programs & Administration, maite@cee.org.  See us on Facebook - look for Center for Excellence in Education!  USA Biology Olympiad (USABO) Registration Is Open!  You and your students are invited to participate in the 2016 USA Biology Olympiad (USABO). Registration is open now for teachers and students! To register, please visit the USABO website [https://www.usabo-trc.org/](https://www.usabo-trc.org/" \t "_blank) Be sure to check out the *Biology Story* of the day and to “friend” the USABO on Facebook. Students should check the Student Corner for study resources and how to form a USABO Club. Registration closes **January 15, 2016**. The final four students on Team USA will compete at the International Biology Olympiad in Hanoi, Viet Nam, July 17  to 14 ([http://ibo2016.org/](http://ibo2015.org/" \t "_blank) ). Contact Kathy Frame, USABO Director, at kframe@cee.org if you have any questions. We look forward to your students participating!  The Teacher Enrichment Program (TEP)  The Teacher Enrichment Program (TEP) is CEE’s program for middle and high school STEM teachers.  TEP provides opportunities for rural and urban teachers to connect with experts from industry and academia to explore cutting edge research and make meaningful professional links with direct benefits for themselves and their students.  All online resources and events are cost-free for all participants.  TEP events are held in California, Florida, Maryland, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, DC.  We invite interested teachers to visit the program website at [www.cee.org/teacher-enrichment-program](http://www.cee.org/teacher-enrichment-program" \t "_blank)   to find out how to connect with scientists and engineers in their community through Bite of Science sessions and Teacher Roundtables and to explore a variety of online STEM resources.  Survey for RI STEAM Now Coalition  The **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**  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.  Participate in the 2016 Ocean 180 Video Challenge  A nationwide video contest designed to encourage ocean scientists to share their discoveries and excitement for research with middle school students and the public, the contest is sponsored by the **Center for Ocean Science Education Excellence** (COSEE) and the **National Science Foundation**.  In December 2015, ocean scientists will submit 180-second videos highlighting the key findings and relevance of a recent research study. Middle school students, the target audience, will play a key role – they will screen the top 10 finalists and select the winners.  Registered classrooms will screen and evaluate the videos between January 4-February 15, 2016.  The winners will be announced on February 23, 2016 at the Ocean Sciences Meeting in New Orleans.  **How do teachers register their classrooms?**  Online classroom registration is available at [http://www.ocean180.org](http://www.ocean180.org/" \t "_blank)  **Registration deadline is December 15, 2015.**  **What is required to participate?**  Students in registered classrooms are asked to view and evaluate the top 10 videos, select their three favorite entries as a class, and enter their votes online. The videos may be watched in a single class period or over several days during the screening period (January 4-February 15, 2016). A sample rubric for evaluating the films is available on the Ocean 180 website at [www.ocean180.org](http://www.ocean180.org/" \t "_blank)  Teachers are free to integrate the films into their curriculum in any way they wish; we only request that students view and judge all 10 entries as a class.  **Questions?**  Contest rules and guidelines, entry forms, and additional information about the Ocean 180 Video Challenge are available at [www.ocean180.org](http://www.ocean180.org/" \t "_blank)   Inquiries and questions should be directed to [info@ocean180.org](mailto:info@ocean180.org" \t "_blank).    Inner Space Center Educational Programs  The ISC offers educational programs 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 Classroom  When: 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    The Amgen Foundation Biotech Experience  The Amgen Foundation announced that it will invest more than $4 million to support and strengthen theAmgen Biotech Experience 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, RI  This 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, & Science  Art 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 as well as printable poster to display and directions to the venue  Registration Now Open for Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Program  Registration 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 on the competition website    NSTA Conferences  NSTA 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  2016 Conferences: Nashville (National): Mar. 31–Apr. 3, 2016  STEM Forum & Expo: Denver, July 27–29, 2016  Share Your Good Ideas! Present at the 2016 NSTA STEM Forum  NSTA 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 for more information and to submit a proposal. Please e-mail lcrossley@nsta.org if you have any questions.  Lab-Aids is looking for a Sales Consultant  Please pass along [this information](http://www.rista.us/resources/Documents/LAB-AIDS%20Part%20Time%20Job%20Description.pdf" \t "_blank) to any recently retired teachers who are looking to stay in the science education field.  **For Students:**  National Youth Science Camps  The NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE CAMP is an honors program for two high-achieving high school students from each state in the United States and others from around the world. This residential summer experience is held in a rustic setting in West Virginia’s eastern mountains and has honored and challenged over 5,000 participants since it began in 1963.  Application Deadline is February 17, 2016  GOALS   * Honor high-achieving science-oriented students * Introduce new scientific topics, especially those not typically covered in traditional secondary curriculum * Encourage lifelong learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics * Demonstrate relationships among the sciences and between science and other disciplines * Prepare students to face challenges of college, career, and life-long education * Develop creativity, instill self-confidence, and foster camaraderie among future leaders   More information is at [https://nysc.fluidreview.com/](https://nysc.fluidreview.com/" \t "_blank)  [Printable Handout](http://www.rista.us/resources/Documents/NYSC%20Handout%202016%20RS.pdf" \t "_blank)  DNA Day Essay Contest  Help bring DNA Day into the classroom by submitting your students’ essays to the American Society of Human Genetics’ [DNA Day Essay Contest](http://www.ashg.org/cgi-bin/rda.pl?u=101&e=2261" \t "_blank)  Our submission site will open in early January, with **submissions due March 11 at 5:00 pm U.S. Eastern Time.**  This year we’re asking students to describe a genetic test of their choosing, then defend or refute a recommendation made in our recent position statement on pediatric genetic testing.   |  | | --- | | ***2016 Question*** *Choose a genetic test that is currently available for a condition or disease that does not cause symptoms until adulthood (i.e., an adult-onset condition such as hereditary breast cancer). Describe how the test works and how certain the test results are. Then, either defend or refute the recommendation below from [ASHG’s recent position statement on pediatric genetic testing](http://www.ashg.org/cgi-bin/rda.pl?u=102&e=2261" \t "_blank)*  *"Adolescents should be encouraged to defer predictive or pre-dispositional testing for adult-onset conditions until adulthood because of the complexity of the potential impact of the information at formative life stages."* |   **Students can win up to $1,000 with a matching $1,000 lab equipment grant for their teacher!** We will award prizes to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners, as well as 10 honorable mentions. Each teacher is invited to submit up to six essays per class, for up to three classes.  We hope you can build this essay into your teaching plans and look forward to reading your students’ insightful essays. Please email [dnaday@ashg.org](mailto:dnaday@ashg.org" \t "_blank) if you have any questions.  New Biology Program at Johnson & Wales  The Providence Campus of Johnson & Wales University is pleased to announce the launch of our Bachelor of Science degree in Biology this fall of 2015. Our program is designed to prepare students for careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines or graduate study in the life or health sciences. Degrees in STEM disciplines have a unique advantage in the job market, as the global economy demands new innovations to solve worldwide issues. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects employment prospects for life scientists to increase by 20.4% by year 2020.  What makes JWU’s Biology program different?  • Students will learn from faculty members, not teaching assistants in a brand-new building at our Providence Campus. This new facility will contain teaching laboratories with state of the art equipment, active-learning classrooms, adjacent faculty offices, and many informal collaborative learning spaces to foster a participatory, accessible environment for faculty / student interaction.  • Our faculty teach using best practices in STEM education: inquiry-based, active learning in the classrooms and laboratories.  • Our program is career-focused: students can gain experience before graduation through an optional internship in a research, clinical, or community/educational setting.  • Graduates will be prepared for entry-level positions in research or clinical laboratories or entrance into competitive graduate programs.  As an innovative leader in experiential education, Johnson & Wales University is continually evolving our curricula to meet industry needs and tomorrow's career opportunities.  For more information, visit our website at www.jwu.edu or contact Barbara DiSaia, Admissions Representative, at bdisaia@jwu.edu or 401-954-2007  GE Star Awards Competition  The GE STAR Awards 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.  *World of 7 Billion* Video Contest  Back 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.  Participate in the *You Be The Chemist*Challenge® in Rhode Island  The *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 |

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