This issue of the Science Matters eBlast is filled with Pre-K through high school opportunities and resources for both teachers and students. Please share the eBlast with your colleagues. It is also available in the Science Learning Community of SAS. If you have questions or items for Science Matters, contact Dave Bauman: davbauman@pa.gov

Science Education in the News

Michael Soskil was named the Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year. Mr. Soskil, the Mad Scientist, is a fifth grade science teacher in Wallenpaupack South Elementary School in Newfoundland. WNEP has an article and video of the Mad Scientist! Congratulations!

Rob Webb received $100,000 in a Farmers Insurance Thank America’s Teachers Dream Big Challenge. In addition to renovating Pequea Valley School District’s planetarium, he has plans for science camps and developing a community STEM center. Congratulations! PennLive has links to youtube and pictures. Applications for 2017 will open in January.

Michelle Tonkin was awarded the Outstanding Chemistry Teacher by the Susquehanna Valley Section of the American Chemical Society. Mrs. Tonkin, Honesdale High School Chemistry teacher, was presented with the Ronald C. Blatchley Chemistry Teacher of the Year award. Congratulations!

If you or your school is featured in local media, please let us know and we will feature it here.

Professional Opportunities

The Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh has a number of workshops available for teachers in elementary, middle, and high schools. The SSP website has descriptions of the workshops.

Join the 2017 Extreme Weather E-Forum! What does a changing climate mean for a person, a community, or a region? How can we prepare for, adapt to, or improve our resilience to these new climate normals? The Extreme Weather E-Forum addresses these questions and more through guided research and peer-to-peer blogging. Created especially for high school environmental science and biology students, the E-forum provides an opportunity to investigate the relationship between climate and extreme weather and think more critically about what it means to become more resilient. Students can blog with other Pennsylvania classrooms to raise awareness about preparing for extreme weather events, share lessons learned, and inspire a community approach to improving resilience.
**Eligibility:** The E-Forum is open to high school classes with an environmental focus, including biology, chemistry, earth and space science and others. While priority will be given to schools located in the coastal portion of the Delaware River watershed, we invite other Pennsylvania schools as space permits.

**Timeframe:** The E-Forum will run from February to March 2017. Blogging activities will only be available during this time, but online materials are available year-round. **Registration deadline is January 6, 2017.**

[http://easternpaseagrant.org/ extreme-weather-e-forum](http://easternpaseagrant.org/ extreme-weather-e-forum)

To enroll your class in Pennsylvania Sea Grant’s 2017 Extreme Weather E-Forum, e-mail Ann Faulds (amf12@psu.edu) with the following information:

1.) Your school’s name and location.
2.) What class/es and number of students you would like to register.

**The American Museum of Natural History** will be offering **online courses** for teachers to deepen science content knowledge, interact with working scientists, and gain valuable resources for classrooms with **Seminars on Science**, the American Museum of Natural History’s online professional learning program. The 6-week online courses in the life, Earth, and physical sciences are co-taught by Museum scientists and classroom educators and are accessible on your schedule. Graduate credit is available from our university partners. The next session starts January 30th. Save $50 when you use code SCIENCE MATTERS.

Courses include: Climate Change; The Diversity of Fishes; Earth: Inside & Out; Evolution; The Ocean System; Sharks and Rays; and Space, Time and Motion. For more information about the program, check out Seminars on Science at amnh.org/learn. If you have any questions, send an email to learn@amnh.org or call (800) 649-6715.

**Reminders**

**The Updated Pennsylvania Science Framework** will be moving to the Curriculum Framework section of SAS the first part of January. At that time, the interactive/dynamic section will be disabled and the science framework will only be available in word/pdf files. A shout out is well deserved for the 500+ individuals from across the commonwealth who worked on the framework! Thank you!

**SAS Training** – Coming to a location near you will be a SAS Training held by the Content Advisors from PDE. The content advisors from PDE will be working with individuals in their specialty areas and providing resources that directly impact curriculum, teaching, and learning. SAS has undergone many changes and this is an opportunity to discover all that it has to offer. The first session was held in Pittsburgh this week and all participants found it extremely valuable . . . and that included administrators (superintendents, principals, curriculum coordinators, IU personnel) and teachers. It is designed to review all the new enhancements and resources within the SAS Site. For example, science and technology educators will be meeting together to review all the resources available to assist districts in developing curricula, assessment, and support of programs. Location and dates are as follows . . .
Colonial IU20 – January 6
Harrisburg PaTTAN – January 25
State College at Toftrees – January 26
Northwest Tri-County IU5 – February 6
Hilton Scranton – February 15
East PaTTAN – February 23

Registration is located at IU 5. There is no fee for the sessions. Act 48 is available.

PA State Parks continue to offer innovative, multi-modal educator workshops across the state. Participants will receive Act 48 credit. Continuous updates of workshops can be found at: http://pennsylvaniagov.enterprise.localist.com/search/events?search=teacher+workshops

Grants, Awards, Contests

NYSC – The National Youth Science Camp is now accepting applications for graduating high school students from Pennsylvania. The camp is limited to two students from each state, which is an amazing honor. This is a phenomenal experience for students that will take place in West Virginia, June 14-July 8 . . . and all expenses are paid! Applications are now available online. Start the process immediately!

NSTA Awards and Recognition Program recognizes exceptional and innovative science educators. The deadline for all awards is December 15, 2016. NSTA Awards and Recognitions.

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching application will be available the first week of November. PAEMST is a phenomenal program that recognizes excellence in the teaching of science. By going to the PAEMST website, you can sign up for notification of information regarding the program.

Science Matters Information

If someone sent you this eBlast, you can become a member of Science Matters to receive it directly! Go to: http://pascience.org/Science-Matters.php

Science Matters is an initiative of the Pennsylvania Science Teachers Association and the National Science Teachers Association to promote quality science education, through the sharing of information, resources, and professional development opportunities. The Pennsylvania state coordinator is Dave Bauman: davbauman@pa.gov.