

CeMaST Connections

A monthly digest of events and opportunities from ISU's Center for Mathematics, Science, & Technology

*205 North Main Street Campus Box 5960
January 2025*

Please share this opportunity with students! STEM Alliance is hosting a workshop aimed at first-year students to highlight all the academic support services that are available at ISU. This workshop will be at 3:30pm on Tuesday, January 21. A flyer is attached; **please spread the word widely.**

Please join us for Science on Tap! Science on Tap is a local public talk series to bring STEM to the community through informal 20-minute talks by experts at a local brewery. Science on Tap is held twice per month on **Mondays, 6-8pm, at Keg Grove**, with the **next event happening on Jan 27th**. Presenters pose trivia questions to the audience for fun in between talks. Anyone who answers trivia questions are entered into a raffle at the end of the event. Following all presentations, a Q&A session allows the audience to ask any burning STEM questions they have to any scientists in the room. Keg Grove allows patrons to bring their own food. Science on Tap is a great opportunity to offer a low-pressure public talk geared toward a general audience. If you or anyone you know (faculty, graduate students, undergraduates) are interested in being a Science on Tap presenter, please [indicate your interest here!](#) All fields are welcome to participate, not only the natural sciences.

Free documentary film at the Normal Theater! CeMaST is sponsoring a free screening of the documentary film, [Counted Out](#), which is about the importance of mathematics literacy in our democracy. The **free** screening will be on **Wednesday, January 29 at 6pm**. The film is about 90 minutes long, and a 30-minute panel discussion will follow. Panelists include Dr. Bradley Heller (Mathematics Teacher at Normal Community High School), Dr. Katy Strzepak (Director of the Center for Civic Engagement), Dr. Tina Williams (Associate Professor of Management), and Dr. Gaywalee Yamskulna (Professor of Mathematics). If you would like to offer extra credit to your students for attending or otherwise know who from your class attended, there will be opportunity at the end of the film for students to use a QR code to complete an attendance form. Attached you can find a slide to announce this event in your classes.

Spots still left in the spring faculty book club! Our spring faculty book club will feature [Limitless Mind](#) by [Jo Boaler](#), who is a mathematics education researcher at Stanford University. She also happens to be featured in the above documentary, *Counted Out*! The book club will take place on the following Fridays at 2-3pm: Feb 7 (Introduction), Feb 21 (Ch. 1-2), Mar 21 (Ch. 3), Apr 4 (Ch. 4-5), and Apr 18 (Ch. 6 and Conclusion). Please consider joining even if you cannot make all the meetings. We can pay participants **\$55** for each discussion session attended (paid in summer 2025; if you already have summer support totaling to 1.0 FTE you may not be eligible for this pay). We still have a few books left, so [please complete this form](#) to **claim a free copy**. Locations of the meetings will be shared with those who sign up at a later time.

STEM IS-U Talk Series continues! The STEM IS-U talk series continues on Feb 11 at noon via Zoom. STEM IS-U talks provide STEM faculty both information about the Science IS-U Scholars program *and* an opportunity for STEM faculty to share their wisdom with each other, as we work together to overcome teaching challenges. Attendance comes with **\$55**, which will be paid in summer 2025 (if you already have summer support totaling to 1.0 FTE you may not be eligible for this pay). Graduate students with teaching responsibilities are welcome to take part in this opportunity. You can [register for the February talk here](#).