

CeMaST Connections

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

205 North Main Street Campus Box 5960

March 2025

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 once or twice per month on **Mondays, 6–8pm, at Keg Grove**, with the **next event happening on March 24**. Tara Guyer will be talking about bird dialects, Jadyn Scott will be talking about Machine Learning, and Jason Themanson will be talking about the psychology of baseball. 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.

STEM IS-U Talk Series continues! The STEM IS-U talk series continues on **March 27 at noon via Zoom**. This month's focus is "Communicating our Growth Mindset to Students." STEM IS-U talks provide STEM faculty with 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 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 March talk here](#).

High School Research Symposium happening April 28, judges needed. The 24th Annual High School Research Symposium will take place on Monday, April 28. This event celebrates Illinois high school students' scholarly inquiry, which they share via poster presentations. It is inspiring to see the rising talent coming from across the state. If you are free to serve as a poster judge on the morning of 4/28, we are in need of volunteers. [Please complete this form if you are interested.](#)

Hosting SCI-ESAMP students this summer! Thanks to our recently funded Southern & Central Illinois Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation grant, we will be hosting up to 8 students from Alliance institutions this summer for an 8-week research experience. While there is no salary for mentors, mentors receive up to \$500 in lab commodities. If you or your graduate students will already be conducting research this summer, this is a fantastic way to recruit graduate students to your

lab. Alliance institutions are ISU, UIUC, SIUC, Bradley, WIU, and IWU. Participants may be majoring in the life sciences, chemistry, physics, geology, engineering, mathematics, and IT. If you're interested in mentoring an SCI-LSAMP scholar, please contact Dr. Mahua Biswas in Physics (mbiswas@ilstu.edu).

STEM Ambassadors' contributions and funding. The STEM Ambassadors worked much of last year to create ISUAnswers.org, a website where an ISU student could go to ask *any* question about being a student at ISU, and their work is now being integrated into help.ilstu.edu to expand the scope of our Help site. Be on the lookout for this forthcoming integration! Also, many may have heard that the funder of our STEM Ambassadors program, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, unexpectedly canceled the grant program that was supporting this program only 3 years into the 6-year project. While this is true, CeMaST is committed to supporting this STEM Ambassadors cohort through to graduation. They have contributed so much to our campus already, despite being only in their second year; this includes the Help site integration, a study investigating the importance of faculty–student relationship building in the first year, and support for academic units creating courses to support student success. We look forward to their excellent work continuing.