

CeMaST Connections

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

205 North Main Street Campus Box 5960

September 2024

Action Item! The application for the next cohort of [Inclusive Excellence STEM Fellows](#) is **now open and due October 1**. This paid Fellowship (\$3,000) is both an honor that recognizes commitment to broadening representation in STEM disciplines as well as support for faculty who wish to provide more equitable and inclusive instruction in courses that are foundational to one or more STEM degree program(s). STEM Fellows:

- Complete the [Inclusive STEM Teaching Project's fall course](#), which runs October 7 – November 24, 2024. Fellows must register separately for the course.
- Participate in the local learning community that explores lessons from the above course, schedule TBD.
- Participate in a monthly book club during the spring 2025 semester, schedule TBD.
- Apply what they gathered from the above experiences to enhance equity and inclusion in their STEM course(s). This will involve one full-day meeting and two half-day meetings during the 2025 summer, schedule TBD. Meetings will be in-person.

Please read the linked STEM Fellows page above for more details and email Rebekka Darner (rldarne@ilstu.edu) or Sarah Boesdorfer (sbboesd@ilstu.edu) with your questions.

Less is more? If you would like to participate in the [Inclusive STEM Teaching Project's fall course](#) but cannot commit to the whole Inclusive Excellence STEM Fellowship, we are happy to support your participation! **Please go ahead and [register here for the course](#); let us know you've registered by emailing us at (cemast@ilstu.edu)**. Then, upon completion of the course, email your completion certificate to us, and you will receive a \$900 in 2025 summer salary for completion of the online course.

Action Item! The application to be an [Associate Director of CeMaST](#) is now open and **due October 15**. We will be selecting 2-3 new Associate Directors. CeMaST Associate Directors commit to 2 years of service, renewable up to 4 years, in which they collaborate with other Associate Directors, the Director, and other CeMaST collaborators in grant-writing, STEM education scholarship, and STEM project administration. The Associate Directors also take part in determining CeMaST's strategic directions. The CeMaST Leadership team, composed of the Director and Associate Directors, meet monthly. The application requests a CV, a letter of interest and vision, and a letter from the applicant's chair/director stating how the directorship will be recognized (e.g., as part of their service commitment).

A special opportunity for departmental leadership! We would like to pull together an ISU team of chairs/directors of STEM units to attend a webinar on student persistence, "[Utilize Essential Retention Data & Establish an Integrated Approach to Improve Student Success](#)," which will discuss how to utilize data to improve persistence and success. If you are interested in joining our ISU team, **please email Rebekka Darner (rldarne@ilstu.edu) by October 1 to be added to our team**. Rebekka will take care of the team registration and then organize a 1-hour debrief to coordinate on-campus efforts.

Social gatherings!

- [Here are photos from our STEM Education Community Social](#), which happened last Friday. It was fun! Keep an eye out for similar opportunities in the future.
- The Inclusive Excellence in STEM Reception is happening on November 14 at 3-4pm in the Circus Room in the Bone Student Center. Our 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 cohorts of STEM Fellows will be honored. **If you are applying to be an Inclusive Excellence STEM Fellow, please save this date/time on your calendar!**

For your students! Please share the following opportunities with your students.

- The application for the \$1,500 [April Schermann STEM Scholarship](#) is now open, due October 1.
- ISU's Stephen and Sharon Hagge Innovation Institute is providing innovation coaching to students via the Idea Factory. Please share the attached flyer.
- STEM Alliance support STEM majors who identify with a group that is marginalized in and minoritized by mainstream STEM. Please use the attached flyer and/or ppt slide to share this opportunity with your students.
- ISU is now a partner, along with DePaul and NIU, for the [Food Systems Innovation Challenge](#), which is November 16 in Dekalb. Interested students should contact Harriett Steinbach (hmstein@ilstu.edu), who is assembling our team of 4-6 students.
- IT faculty and students are providing all students an opportunity to explore AI, reinforcement learning, and introductory coding in an event entitled "Walking on a Frozen Lake." Please share the attached flyer.