



February 2024 California STEM Network Meeting Recap

February's CA STEM Network convening kicked off with Jessica Sawko, the Network's Statewide Director, sharing updates on the progress made to integrate science into the state's educational accountability system by 2026. Throughout the process the State Board of Education will take six intricate steps to ensure a seamless transition, and Children Now will continue to engage and advocate for a complete and equitable implementation.

Jessica also shared an update on Assembly member Berman's new bill, [AB-2097](#). The bill aims to mandate 1 year of computer science for all graduating students. So far, the bill has elicited both excitement and concern, particularly regarding equitable access; there are some concerns on ensuring the bill doesn't create more barriers for kids to graduate high school.

The meeting wrapped up with members sharing key updates from around the Network. To start, Teresa Barnett from Community Resources for Science, updated they have been working with districts around the Bay Area to help students graduate climate literate. Out of a very low-key effort to get people engaged, there was a striking 150+ people who signed up to learn more about how to talk about climate literacy and figure out what their teachers need.

Justin Sewell from the Krause Center for Innovation shared their teams have partnered with the Silicon Valley Education Foundation, the Resource Area for Teaching, Ignited, and Santa Clara County's office of Education, to have a teachers and tacos event that brought together a diverse group for collaborative conversations. Sewell also shared a blog on his [10 Learnings from the Krause Center of Innovation Summit](#) on AI Education.

Tasha Castañeda with Greene Scholars shared they had their annual science fair which might be the largest African American Science fair in America. Additionally, Greene Scholars will be hosting a [career day](#) on April 13th which will bring together teachers and students providing role models and a safe space to explore science and help students explore careers.



**PLEASE
JOIN US**

CA STEM Network
Meeting March 12,
2024 @ 2 p.m.
[Register Here](#)



Carol Fry Bohlin, with CSU Fresno shared on February 13th they had a PK-3 conference with three keynote speakers who were brought in virtually. She also shared the following resources: [St. Anthony Retreat Center](#), (great retreat center close to national park) & [CSET Math and Science workshops](#) (free, online).

Alexandra Williams with the Silicon Valley Education Foundation shared they have an [Annual Women in STEM leadership conference](#) this year that is geared towards advancing gender equity on AI and will happen on March 14th.

Michele Holcomb with the California Science Teachers Association shared that for the first time in more than five than 5 years their annual conference will be held in Sacramento. They are accepting proposals for presentations and will be hosting an opportunity for Q&A office hours to receive support. You can access the call for proposals for the California Science Education Conference by [clicking here](#).

Emily Dilger with Ignited Education shared they are offering a [Summer Fellowship Program](#) that will provide hands-on experience, with support from a Project Leader and a personal Ignited Coach, along with plenty of other benefits. Experiences can be virtual or in-person.

Meanwhile, the CA STEM Network is continuing with our process, led by Left Bank Consulting, to revamp and better the CA STEM Network . Special thank you to those who have already contributed to surveys and questionnaires. The next CA STEM Network meeting will take place on March 12th at 2 p.m. [Register Here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

[March 7](#): How to support science instruction and the California Science Test series

[March 12](#): CA STEM Network Monthly Meeting (registration required)

[March 14](#): STEM Leadership and the Women Who Power It

EMPOWERING EVERY STUDENT

How Do I Support All My Learners for CAST?

Join CASE and CSU Northridge's San Fernando Valley Science Project Team for a 3-part virtual series on how to support science instruction and the California Science Test.

Thursdays—March 7, March 21 & April 11

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

\$20 for members; \$30 for nonmembers

Fee reserves your "seat" for the entire series.

REGISTER ONLINE

<https://csta.memberclicks.net/Empowering-Every-Student>



Sponsor the 2024 Summit for Student Leaders!



Children Now's Summit for Student Leaders is a **youth-led**, annual event that engages, supports, and connects youth leaders around California. The Summit covers a variety of topics that today's youth prioritize and features **diverse leaders and changemakers** as speakers and panelists. In addition to the various featured panels and workshops, the event includes a variety of engagement opportunities to promote connections among leading youth led organizations.



The **2023 Summit** was a resounding success. We invite you to be part of the impact of this year's conference by becoming a sponsor! [Click here for more.](#)



Society for Science Fuels Innovation with \$110K in Educator Grants, Transforming Classrooms for Student STEM Research

FEBRUARY 21, 2024 - Media Contact: Aparna K. Paul

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Society for Science has recognized 41 exceptional educators with awards through its STEM Research Grants program, an initiative dedicated to advancing hands-on science education in middle and high school classrooms nationwide.

These educators will be receiving the STEM Research Grants in two forms: (1) research kits assembled and distributed to teachers by Society for Science and (2) funds paid directly to teachers intended for STEM-related equipment. The funds vary between \$2,000 and \$5,000, based on what the teacher requested for their classroom. By expanding the array of available equipment and materials, the grants provide students with more diverse research opportunities. Students can explore a broad spectrum of research areas, from electronics and coding to environmental science and ecological studies, fostering inquiry and a foundation for future scientific leaders.

The Society's STEM Research Grants program, sponsored by Regeneron, is committed to promoting equity and inclusivity, ensuring that aspiring engineers and scientists of all backgrounds, regardless of their location, race or ethnicity, have equal opportunities. By actively fostering an environment that embraces diversity, the program aims to break down barriers and create a more equitable landscape in STEM education, empowering students to pursue and excel in scientific fields, regardless of their individual circumstances.

"Congratulations to the 41 recipients of this year's STEM Research Grants. These grants serve as a catalyst in classrooms across the country, igniting student curiosity and exposing learners to tangible, real-world applications of STEM. These grants play a crucial role in shaping an inclusive landscape of scientific exploration," said Maya Ajmera, President & CEO of Society for Science and Executive Publisher of Science News."

This year's award recipients include educators from 24 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa, emphasizing the program's widespread impact and diverse representation.

Priority consideration is given to educators who serve students from low-income communities, including students of underrepresented and underserved backgrounds. Everyone in this year's cohort is based in a public school. Notably, 73% teach at Title I schools. Approximately 72% of students benefitting from the grant hail from underrepresented backgrounds, including American Indian, Alaska Native, Black and Latinx demographics. [Read more here.](#)