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Quick STEM Fact

E-learning, or virtual school instruction, is now offered by about 25 percent of all K-12 public schools in the U.S. NC Virtual Public School is the fastest growing in the country.

DoE Releases Race to the Top Applications

A day after speaking at the [25th Annual Emerging Issues Forum](#) in Raleigh this week, Secretary Arne Duncan and the U.S. Department of Education provided access to all the applications it received from states applying to the Race to the Top program. The move reinforces a focus on public transparency in an unprecedented \$4.3 billion grant program from the federal government. At this time, the states' narrative responses to the application criteria are available, and each state has received detailed information on the process for application scoring.

- [Read North Carolina's application \(large file 31.1m\)](#)
- [Read all the participating state's applications](#)

Welcome to the NC STEM Team

NC STEM Community Collaborative is happy to announce that [Mark Ezzell](#) has joined the team as our new director of communications and public policy. Mark has a great history of supporting communities impacting education and policy in N.C., both at the N.C. Health and Wellness Trust and the Governor's Crime Commission. You can find more about Mark and our growing Leadership Team on our [Web site](#).

More Money For Hands-on Learning

The Student Science Enrichment Program through the Burroughs Wellcome Fund supports diverse programs with a common goal to enable primary and secondary students to participate in hands-on scientific activities and pursue inquiry-based exploration. Since 1996, BWF has awarded 141 grants totaling \$20 million to 69 organizations that reach nearly 33,000 North Carolina students. [Learn more](#).

STEM Resource Center Now on PBS

Through many of award-winning STEM-related television programs – *Nova*, *Nature*, *Cyberchase*, *Curious George*, and, most recently, *Sid The Science Kid* – PBS continues to play a role as both a standard-bearer and innovator in digital content and professional development guided by research and actively supporting classroom teachers, home educators, and childcare providers. The PBS Teachers STEM Education Resource Center is now available to introduce you to selected STEM education resources. You can search their database of nearly 4,000 science, technology, engineering and math resources for grades preK-12. Worth

Source:
U.S. Department of Education

Questions?

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STEM Community Briefs

Fort Bragg Community

The Fort Bragg Design Team has posted the Educational Innovation Design Plan and supporting documentation in an [e-Portfolio](#). The Fort Bragg Team wants to hear from you and has setup a [Discussion Board](#) to share your thoughts. Your feedback is welcomed and needed.

Davie Community

STEM education principles are driving the design of the new high school in Davie County. Up to this point, the high school design process and the Davie County STEM Education Initiative have followed separate paths. A workshop in Davie County last week, supported by the [American Architectural Foundation](#), the [Mebane Foundation](#) and [NC STEM](#), sought to answer a big question: How should STEM education principles affect the design of the new high school? The answer to this question has now linked these two paths together to forge a new future for education in Davie County.

Visit Daviecountystem.com for more information.

Lenoir Community

Lenoir County schools and members of the IET (Instructional Effectiveness Team) last week announced the winners of the Ipod Touch Mini Grant. With close to 40 teachers participating in 28 grant applications, the IET subcommittee was hard pressed to select the recipients of the eight Ipod Touch Carts. The recipients were selected in a blind application process that was based on the project objectives, school goals, the total impact on students, and creativity. [See who won.](#)

Follow Lenoir's STEM updates at <http://lenoircountystem.com/>

NC STEM Briefs

Job Opening: Community Liaison

Do you have a passion for improving education in North Carolina? Are you looking to share your passion with others and turn those important conversations into action? NC STEM currently is accepting applications to join our team. As our communities grow in 2010 and beyond, we need someone like you to help coordinate and align our efforts throughout the state. Interested candidates for our Community Liaison position should [click here](#) or copy/paste the URL below in your browser to learn more about this important role and to apply. We look forward to speaking to you. <https://www.mcnc.org/node/564>

JOBS Commission

The Joining Our Businesses and Schools (JOBS) Commission's next regional meeting is Monday, Feb. 22 in the Butler Theatre at Fayetteville State University, 1200 Murchison Road. This next meeting also will include a presentation by the Fort Bragg Design Team on their education innovation design [Learn more about the JOBS Commission, current](#)

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VOTE: NC STEM Poll



What current education activity do you feel is the most outdated?

[members, updates, meeting dates, and more on our website.](#)

Is 'Exovation' in Education Necessary?

There's an old adage, "out with the old, and in with the new." We have all heard this, but do we actually practice it? Does innovation mean change, or do we have to change in order to innovate? [Read full post.](#)

More NC STEM Blog Posts:

- [President's 2011 Budget Highlights STEM Education](#)
- [Why Do We Need America COMPETES?](#)
- ['Career & College: Ready, Set, Go!](#)
- [N.C. Teachers Honored at the White House](#)
- [The Right STEM Strategy? Not Just One Answer](#)

Events

BEYA STEM Conference Marks 20 Years Next Week

For more than two decades, the BEYA STEM Global Competitiveness Conference has served as an invaluable tool to recognize outstanding achievement of African-Americans in STEM. This year's event is set for Feb. 18-20 in Baltimore, Md. [Learn more about the conference.](#)

3D: The Next Big Wave and Your Business

The global financial success of James Cameron's "Avatar" – already the top revenue producing movie of all time – clearly demonstrates that 3D is no longer a fad but big business. How might 3D affect your livelihood, your career, your business? Mark your calendar for Feb. 24. WRAL Local Tech Wire is assembling a program of global 3D leaders to discuss how the technology is changing the Internet, social media, entertainment, software development, product development and much more. [Click here to learn more.](#) You won't want to miss it.

72nd Annual ITEA Conference & Exhibition in March

The ITEA Conference & Exhibition on March 18 through March 20 in Charlotte will offer a series of presentations on the use of design and technology to make a better society by using best practices to deliver education with an eye on 21st century learning skills as a basis for our future citizens. [Conference information is online now.](#)

NC STEM Events Calendar

Please check our [Events Calendar](#) to find more NC STEM Events and Partner Events that might serve your needs in 2010.

Have STEM News or an Event to Share?

NC STEM starts with you. We are happy to provide the platform that connects people who have great ideas to those with access to a broad network of resources, users, and experts around North Carolina and the United States. Please see our [Submission Guidelines](#) for more details.

