



## Science Teachers Of Missouri

June 2021

### Happy Summer!



What a year it has been. To say that it was unprecedented is an understatement. Teachers completely had to change the way they teach and were still held accountable for every student's learning. They dealt with a plethora of challenges including students not logging in, technology issues, and not knowing from one day to the next if they were teaching virtual, in person, or a hybrid of both.

For all you did and do everyday, STOM salutes you for your dedication to science and to children. What you all have done is remarkable. Pat yourself on the back and know that you made a difference.

Scientifically Speaking,  
Olga

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**Announcing the STOM Fall Conference: The New Normal (TBD)**

**Keynote: Dr. Christine Royce**

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## MoDELS Preview

When we asked our membership what they wanted from STOM they clearly indicated professional development as a priority. Collaborating with the Institute for School Partnership, we are bringing back the Missouri Developing Excellent Leaders in Science (MODELS) program. And when we tell you it is coming back - it is coming back strong!

The MODELS program features nationally recognized experts across the fields of science. It will be all virtual so it is easy to access. The sessions will be held once a month on Saturdays (exact dates TBD). As a bonus, The Institute for School Partnership at Washington University will co-sponsor these workshops. *If you do not want to attend all of the sessions, you may.* **There is a charge for all participants. STOM members are offered significantly reduced rates.**

Here is a preview of some of the presenters:



**Ted Willard** is a Senior Science Content Expert with Discovery Education working on the development of curriculum materials that meet the vision of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and other standards based on the Framework of K-12 Science Education. Ted is a leader in the country understanding NGSS and author of the Atlas of NGSS published by NSTA. Ted will be digging into NGSS and its application.



**Christine Royce** is a past president of the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA). Royce is currently a professor in the teacher education department and co-director for the MAT in STEM Education program at Shippensburg University in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. Throughout the pandemic, she has been teaching online and assisting colleagues with teaching in online environments and the use of digital tools (and greatly missing travel). Her research interests focus around the integration of digital tools and technology into classrooms for sense-making, the inclusion of children's literature in elementary science classrooms, and STEM integration. Christine will help us grow in the digital world.



**Betsy O'Day** is Missouri's only NGSS writer. She is an expert teaching the three dimensions of science. She has held numerous positions at NSTA and STOM, including president. Betsy is a Missouri state item writer, she recently wrote for the Missouri Department of Conservation, and she presents high quality PD all across Missouri. Betsy will help us embed the three dimensions into our lessons.

Some of the other presenters are:



**Dr. David Crowther** - *Teaching Science in an ELL classroom*



**Dr. Jerry Valadez** - *Equity in Science Education*



**Dr. Patrick Brown** - *Instructional Sequence Matters*



**Alicia Connerly**- *Culturally Relevant Teaching*

A flyer with all the presenters and dates will be sent out soon!

## **STOM Conference: Call for Proposals**

STOM is currently accepting proposals for the annual fall conference that will be held virtually on September 25, 2021. High quality presentations for all grade bands (early childhood, elementary, middle, high school) are sought. If you are interested in facilitating a session, submit your proposal at <https://forms.gle/HQeGza1yveyFBMnQ8> by July 31, 2021.

# STOM Awards

This year STOM would like to recognize excellence! We are accepting nominations for the following awards.

1. **STOM Excellence in K-12 Science Teaching Award:** STOM will award exemplary K-12 science teaching (multiple awards will be given in the PK -5 and 6-12 grade spans).
2. **Pre-Service/New Teacher Award:** STOM will award this to a pre-service/New Teacher who demonstrates potential for exemplary K-12 science teaching at the beginning of their career.
3. **Robin Kyles Trailblazer Award:** STOM will award this to someone who promotes a love of science for all by working with diverse (socio-economic, cultural, academic, etc.) and under-resourced populations.



Robin was the educator that reminds us that each teacher is meant to have a massive impact. At their core, children are not meant to be common- they were born to be meteorites, darting across space and time, leaving their mark as they crash into everything. You might see a crater, but Robin would remind you that the crater means something amazing happened right there; an enduring impact that shook the whole world.

Just as Donovan Livingston once said, Robin knew that injustice is telling students they are stars without acknowledging the night that surrounds them. She knew that high expectations are the answer. Teachers who have higher expectations influence students to perform better. This has the potential to begin a domino effect that touches many areas of their lives and ultimately helps them to achieve their purpose.

4. **Technology Innovator Award:** STOM will award this to a teacher who is able to step up and create student success in virtual learning.
5. **Champions of Science Award:** STOM will award this to an individual, a business, or an organization that promotes/supports science education.

We will accept nominations through **September 17, 2021**. Please find the nomination form at

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSehln1PeOFnakR62RYrOea6DEvjb8lfEhx9AJbFtsnOtfj\\_tA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSehln1PeOFnakR62RYrOea6DEvjb8lfEhx9AJbFtsnOtfj_tA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

*Editor's note August 2021: MoDELS information has been revised to reflect fees for all participants and updated enrollment procedures.*