FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
EDUCATION INSTITUTE

SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS EDUCATION INSTITUTE:

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATORS

WELCOME TO SMEI !

The Science and Mathematics Education Institute (SMEI) is excited to bring you this weekly newsletter to help keep you informed, supported, and connected. Each week, we'll share upcoming events, professional learning opportunities, and useful classroom resources designed to support educators and enhance teaching and learning.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 18 | NEED ENERGY AND GEOGRAPHY
5:30-6:30 PM

Celebrate national GIS day with our resident GIS expert, and explore some of NEED's fun multi-disciplinary, social science-friendly activities!

REGISTRATION: 2026/2027 NEED Energy Exchange Webinar Series

NOVEMBER 19 | 3D THURSDAY: NASA INTERSTELLAR MAPPING AND ACCELERATION PROBE MISSION
7:00 PM

Lindsay Bartolone will present on NASA's IMAP (Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe) mission, which launched about a year ago and is already sending back data helping us to explore and map our solar neighborhood. Come hear a little bit about the mission science and learn about outreach program resources designed to highlight STEM skills in.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: See attached flyer

REGISTRATION: 3-D Thursday Webinar Registration - Nov 19

DECEMBER 1 | TIME SERIES GRAPHS WITH MY NASA DATA

6:00 PM

My NASA Data's visualization, the Earth System Data Explorer (ESDE), provides over sixty Earth science datasets and a variety of analysis tools. This session will provide an introduction on how to access the data and an in depth focus on the time series data tools. It includes generating single- or double-line plots for one or two variables over time for your chosen location. In addition, it covers how to download time series data for up to four different variables.

LINK: My NASA Data Fall 2026 Webinar Series Sign-Up Form

🔬 FEATURED RESOURCES

What is a Light day?
The Voyager 1 spacecraft, traveling for nearly 50 years, will soon cross a mile marker reached by no other human-made object — one light-day away from Earth. That's the distance a particle of light can travel in 24 hours, equaling about 16 billion miles (about 26 billion kilometers), a point that Voyager 1 will reach on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2026.
LINK: Voyager 1: What Is a Light-Day - NASA Science

All Eyes on Europa Clipper Observing Campaign

All eyes on Europa Clipper are a telescope based public engagement campaign organized by the Europa Clipper Astronomy Team, with the goal of increasing awareness about the Europa Clipper mission and its science. The Europa Clipper is the largest spacecraft NASA has ever developed for a planetary mission. Its size and proximity to Earth will make it relatively easy to observe with small to medium telescopes. Visit the link below for more information and to sign up to participate.

LINK: Europa Clipper

Get all your Students Engaged with Future City!

Future City is a hands-on cross-curricular educational program that brings STEM to life for students in grades 6 through 12. This hands-on program is **classroom ready** and will have your kids **doing what real engineers do**! From ideating, to designing, to building, and problem-solving; the **ready-to-use deliverables and rubrics** will guide you and your students as they create their own Future City! Get free access to Future City's full suite of resources or join the competition.

LINK: Future City - Future City® Competition

ExploraVision Science Competition

The Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision STEM competition is a perfect virtual and/or in person critical thinking, creative, and collaborative skill learning tool for K-12 students in the U.S. and Canada.

LINK: Science Competition Project Format & Requirements | ExploraVision

Buzz Around the World: A GLOBE Cross-Regional Mosquito Initiative

This initiative engages participants in investigating mosquitoes in a changing environment through local observations using the Mosquito Habitat Mapper in the GLOBE Observer app. Participants will explore mosquito habitats, investigate associated environmental conditions, connect findings to scientific research and local priorities, and identify opportunities for community action.

LINK: Buzz Around the World - GLOBE.gov

FHSU Sternberg Museum of Natural History Educator Resources

The Sternberg Museum of Natural History believes in ***Excitement in Education through Exploration***. The education department focuses on engaging learning opportunities in the earth and life sciences.

LINK: Educator Resources - Sternberg Museum of Natural History

National Geographic Map Maker

MapMaker is a digital mapping tool, created by the National Geographic Society and Esri, designed for teachers, students, and National Geographic Explorers.

LINK: https://www.nationalgeographic.org/learn/educators/mapmaker-launch-guide

The Explorer Mindset

The Explorer Mindset is a way of thinking, being and acting in the world. It is a set of attributes, shared values and commitments that define what it means to be a National Geographic Explorer.

LINK: https://www.nationalgeographic.org/learn/educators/explorer-mindset#resources

NEED's Annual Youth Awards Program for Energy Achievement

Put students in charge of sharing energy knowledge with their communities! Youth Awards projects are student-driven and student-run, giving students the opportunity to set goals, plan and carry out energy activities and outreach, and document what they learn. Teams showcase their efforts and impact in a 15-slide project submission. The Youth Awards Program welcomes all K–12 schools, as well as scouting troops and 4-H groups leading energy projects in their communities! **Project submissions are due April 15, 2027.**

LINK: Project Guidelines - NEED Youth Awards

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