



[Central Coast STEM Education Collaborative](#)

CCSTEM News Blast, February 10, 2013

Editor: [Walter Reil](#)

CCSTEM Taking It To The Streets

Please forward this CCSTEM News Blast to family, friends and neighbors, as they may wish to participate in some way or attend some of the upcoming community events. Help spread the word of energizing and fascinating STEM education activities on the Central Coast. Become involved! Become a promoter and cheerleader of our children's education!

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February 18th General Membership Meeting

Monday, February 18, 5:00-7:00 PM

San Luis Obispo County Office of Education Board Room

Free; Open to the Public

It is time again for our next quarterly General Membership meeting. This is an opportunity for all CCSTEM members to gather to discuss what has been happening in formal and informal STEM education over the past several months, to network with others and share and promote your STEM involvement, or events, with everyone.

Please plan to participate and bring friends. Also, seriously consider inviting members of local businesses to attend and get involved. We urgently need involvement by local business, to help our children and, in turn, help businesses in the future as they look to hire well-educated local talent.

Agenda:

- Check-in, Networking and Schmoozing
- SLOCoE Welcome
- Meeting Overview
- State of CCSTEM - Who are we, goals, how you can be involved
- STEM Community Connect:
 - Endeavour Institute "Balloon Fest" for students, all day April 20th, Tobin James Cellars
 - New "Mini Maker Faire", May 11th, 11 AM - 3 PM, SLO Mission Plaza
- STEM Open Mic:
 - New "Pub Science" community event in SLO, March 6th, 6:30 PM, Creekside Brewing
 - Cal Poly's CESaME events - MOST program
 - CCSTEM working groups
- Collaborate and Connect: Pop-Ups, STEM event ideas, etc
- CCSTEM business update
- Next General Meeting May 20th at New Tech High

Please attend and be a valuable part of supporting our children's STEM education!

For questions or additional information contact [Walt Reil](#), office **805-545-6570** or cell 805-235-2761.

California STEM Learning Network (CSLNet)

Central Coast STEM Education Collaborative (CCSTEM) operations are challenging enough just for our own geographical area from San Miguel to Carpinteria, representing 100,000 K-12 public school students. Doing everything ourselves would be an overwhelmingly monumental effort if it were not for the vital support and guidance from an extremely important partner who is watching out for STEM education for all California public school students.

CCSTEM is one of eight [California STEM Learning Network](#) regional alliances. We are part of a network of other similar STEM regional education organizations that are attempting to do the same thing we are - - improving STEM education for school students. The other California alliances are Sacramento, East Bay, Silicon Valley, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange County and San Diego. Other regional areas may soon join this network.

CCSTEM representatives attend periodic meetings and conferences with representatives from the other regional alliances to compare notes, learn new approaches and share resources. This collaborative effort is a very powerful part of an effort to pull all California public school districts together in bolstering STEM education.

We are extremely pleased and proud to be a member of CSLNet.

CCSTEM Website Operations

CCSTEM webmaster Jaime Foster recently "saved" CCSTEM's website from unexpected closure when it was learned that our web service provider would no longer be supporting our kind of website. Jamie worked quickly to locate another service provider and migrate web operations to the new location. Many, many thanks to Jamie for heading off this very undesirable potential closure.

We are always looking for new information to add to our website, especially services and websites that can provide direct support to educators, students and families. If you are aware of information that may be a good addition to our website, please contact [Walt Reil](#).

Field Trip Destinations and After-School Programs

CCSTEM is looking to gather information on STEM related field trip destinations and after-school programs from San Miguel to Carpinteria that we can highlight on the CCTEM website for the benefit of families, schools and the public. Please submit information to [Walt Reil](#), including specifics and contact information.

Please check out CCSTEM's [Resources / Field Trips page](#) .

We will be looking into creating an After-School Programs page as well.

Cal Poly's New Center for Science & Mathematics

If you were not aware, over the past several years a fantastic new \$132 million science building has been under construction at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly SLO).

Construction of the major state-of-the-art facility will be completed this year and is expected to be operational this fall. This is a monumental new addition to enhance STEM student achievement.

Stay tuned later this year for announcements of opportunities for the public to view the new center. This could be an important opportunity for CCSTEM to be involved in supporting the center's unveiling. Let's all celebrate this long-needed enhancement for the benefit of Cal Poly students and educators.

[May 2010 Mustang Daily "Breaking Ground" Announcement](#)

[January 2012 Tribune News Article](#)

[Construction Progress Photos](#)

San Luis Obispo Cultural Grants Program

[San Luis Obispo's Cultural Grants Program](#) offers financial grants to organizations who wish to advertise / promote events that will occur in the City of San Luis Obispo. This is NOT funding for the event itself, only the promotional work in advance of the event. This can be important funding for STEM education events that are being planned for San Luis Obispo. Please consider taking advantage of this opportunity.

March 6th "Pub Science"

A very popular adult STEM education and social event around the nation is coming to San Luis Obispo on **Wednesday, March 6th**. "Pub Science" will be hosted by [Creekside Brewing Company](#) beginning at **6:30 PM**.

This will be a great opportunity for adults to enjoy their favorite beverages along with hearing a short, yet fascinating STEM presentation by someone from Central Coast communities.

This first Pub Science night will feature Cal Poly Professor Emeritus Dr. Raul Cano speaking on the microbiology and extraction of insect DNA and yeast spores from prehistoric amber. This event includes discussion of beer brewed with prehistoric yeast (Fossil Fuel Beer).

April 20th Endeavour Institute "Balloon Fest"

[Endeavour Institute](#) Director Steve Kliewer is excited to announce the next [Ballon Fest](#) student STEM challenge event all day on **Saturday, April 20th**, at the [Tobin James Cellars](#) along Hwy 46 east of Paso Robles. This annual event has been held for quite a number of years, flying hundreds of weather balloon experiments above SLO County.

This is a highly energizing challenge for junior high and high school students to send their science and engineering experiments aloft 1,000 feet on tethered weather balloons. School students from Paso Robles to Lompoc are busy planning their projects and game plans. I have been involved in past Balloon Fest events and can attest to the outstanding science and engineering experience for students and educators and the extremely rewarding experience for adult volunteers.

For a great visual understanding of what this event is all about, check out the following Cal Coast News photo galleries of past Balloon Fest events taken by professional photographer [Dennis Eamon Young](#): [2011 Tobin James](#) / [2012 Tobin James](#) / [2012 Allan Hancock College](#).

Steve is now recruiting adult judges, mentors and volunteers, especially STEM college students, to be part of this powerful and fun day. For more information and to sign-up as a volunteer, contact [Steve Kliewer](#) at **805-801-2245**, and see the [Balloon Fest website](#).

May 11th "Mini Maker Faire"

Come One, Come All! Bring your family, friends and neighbors!

See the first-ever [Mini Maker Faire](#) in **San Luis Obispo's Mission Plaza** on **Saturday, May 11th**, from **11 AM - 3 PM**, hosted by the [SLO Museum of Art](#).

This is an outstanding free opportunity for the public to see fascinating projects by students, and products and inventions by local businesses. Learn what STEM looks like in action on the Central Coast.

The event team is busy taking applications for presenter tables and students. For additional information and to sign-up for this event, contact [Rebecca Ledue](#), 805-543-8562, and the [Mini Maker Fair website](#).

Supercharged Science Summer Camp 2013

Popular homeschool STEM teacher extraordinaire and "Energizer Bunny" Aurora Lipper will be conducting another 5-day [Supercharged Science](#) day-camp during the summer of 2013 in the San Luis Obispo area.

[Early-Bird Registration](#) applications are now being taken. Dates of the camp have yet to be announced, but families are encouraged to take advantage of the Early-Bird Registration as spaces are very limited, approximately 120 children ages 7-12.

Parents drop off their children in the morning and pick them up in late afternoon. There is usually one day that runs into the evening for their astronomy night, featuring astronomers and telescopes from the [Central Coast Astronomical Society](#).

I visited Aurora's camp last year and was blown away by the excitement and non-stop energy! The kids were having a ball! A lot of minds-on and physical work! My daughter, Robin, was one of the numerous college camp counselors / instructors and she was exhausted every day, as the science and engineering activities were intense! And, there were children attending from all over the world! Families vacation in San Luis Obispo just to have their children attend this camp.

Aurora will most likely be looking for college STEM student counselors again for this summer's camp. Please pass the word, as this is one event that a great deal of fun, and work, for college students.

