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Here's what we have going on in Arkansas STEM...

Arkansas STEM Coalition eNews Issue 70



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021



The graphic features a row of orange stick-figure icons representing people. To the right of the icons, the words "LearningBlade® USER GROUP" are written in large, orange, sans-serif letters. The "LearningBlade" part is stacked, with "LearningBlade" on top and "USER GROUP" below it. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the top right of "LearningBlade".



We're featuring the work and success of Arkansas educators during Learning Blade's User Group!

**Thursday, February 4, 2021**  
**4:30-6:30 pm ET / 3:30-5:30 pm CT**

Please join us!

this tool in their classroom to improve interest in and access to STEM and CS careers for students. And, you will have the chance to hear from Learning Blade champions from your own state, such as:

**Anthony Owen**

State Director of Computer Science  
Arkansas Department of Education

**James Wilson**

Career Development Instructor  
Lincoln Junior High School

[Register Here](#)

[Girls of Promise](#) is an initiative to expose girls to educational and career opportunities in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math), as well as role models and mentors in the field. Our Girls of Promise is a **FREE two-day conference** for **8th-grade girls** interested in STEAM subjects. The conference will be held **virtually on April 1st and 2nd** of this year. Girls will spend two-half days online with us enjoying team activities, breakout sessions, and meet women in STEAM (Science, technology, engineering, arts, and math). The conference will close out with our keynote speaker, [Kate The Chemist](#). The activities will conclude no later than 1:30 on Friday, February 2nd.

If you have girls interested in applying, please have them [APPLY HERE](#). We have extended our application deadline to February 1st to give all applicants ample time to apply! We encourage any and all girls to apply!

150 girls will be accepted and notified in February. After girls are accepted, they will be notified along with their listed chaperone and receive a link to RSVP to secure their spot.

[Apply Here!](#)

We also have our Tech for Good application open! **Applications for Tech for Good are due MARCH 1st!**

Our [Tech for Good](#) competition challenges 6th - 12th-grade girls to team up, and work together to develop an app, website, computer program, 3D printer template, or anything else "tech" that they're inspired to create! Teams are allowed to have up to 4 members. Tech for Good allows girls to use their tech skills to make something that helps others!

[Apply Here!](#)

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The banner features the EAST logo (a stylized 'E' icon) and the text 'EAST INITIATIVE'. Below this is a photo of a woman and a young boy looking at a computer screen. A blue callout bubble contains the text 'To learn more & register, visit [EducationUnleashed.org](http://EducationUnleashed.org)'. At the bottom, it says 'EAST Education Unleashed Parent Support Program' and 'Funded by the Walton Family Foundation'.



Then we invited you to register for the 4th Round of 'Are You Smarter Than An EAST Student' and gave an old date! We've figured out many things at EAST, but not quite how to go back in time.

**We want you to tune in on  
Tuesday, February 2, 2021 @ 11:30  
AM!**



You're Invited!

"NOVA" Virtual Event on Thursday, Jan. 28



Join David Pogue, Emmy® Award-Winning Science Writer

The event will feature a first look at "NOVA's" new three-part series "Beyond the Elements," followed by a live Q&A.

[Register Here](#)

## Learning Blade in the News!

### Bridging the Digital Divide with Learning Blade's NEW "Backpack" App

"Until every student in our state has access to high-speed Internet, our job isn't finished.

Resources such as Learning Blade's new app is an innovative stop-gap that allows us to provide students a way to work at home more efficiently while we continue to build out our broadband."

Governor Asa Hutchinson, Arkansas

"I have one student that has been using the Learning Blade Backpack app at home since she has no Internet, and she loves it. She said it makes her feel like other students and she can keep up with her work without having to rush through it."

Amy Polanowski, Math Teacher, Sullivan Middle School, Sullivan, Missouri



Check out our newly released "[Learning Blade Backpack](#)" Chromebook app in the [Google Play Store](#) that allows your students to log in to their Learning Blade account to download lessons (while online) and do them at home, even without internet access - supporting equity in education and reducing the impact of the digital divide.

[Click here to visit Google Play](#) to download the Backpack app.

Download and run the app, then click on "How it Works" for full instructions.

**Need help getting started with Learning Blade or the Backpack App?**

Request a FREE 30-45 minute implementation webinar [here!](#)

Need an account or don't know your login?

[Request Your FREE Account Here!](#)



## Don't Miss Out on These Classroom-Ready Resources

NSTA is a vibrant community of 40,000 science educators and professionals committed to the practice of teaching science and its impact on student learning. We continue to strive to help you do what you love to do, by providing unlimited access to resources that can help you in your classroom right away. Take a look below at the resources our members have used the most in the past year.



This Daily Do lesson plan, [Why does the ice melt faster?](#), provides an opportunity for students and their families to notice and wonder about a related phenomenon - ice cubes melting at different rates on two different household objects from the same room in the house. Students engage in science and engineering practices to make sense of science ideas about energy.



In this Daily Do lesson plan, [Why is our Sun so big and bright?](#), students and their families engage in science and engineering practices and use the thinking tool of patterns to make sense of the science idea the Sun appears larger and brighter than other stars in the night sky because it is closer.

### **Continue to Receive High Quality Resources**

Like the resources you previewed above? Then become a member of NSTA and get

With an NSTA membership you get access to top notch professional learning resources, a vast database of articles from award-winning journals, online learning and much much more!

[Join Today](#)

# FAMILY engineering | FAMILY SCIENCE



## Family Science Challenge: Rim Roll

Take a moment to explore motion with this simple activity from [Family Science](#).

**Materials needed:**

- Large bowl (metal or plastic mixing bowls work well)
- Marble or small ball

**Try this:**

- Without touching the marble or lifting the bowl, can you make the marble roll around the side of the bowl? Family

### **What's happening?**

It takes some kind of force to start an object moving. Moving the bowl in circles on the table will make the marble roll around the side of the bowl. Objects at rest tend to stay at rest and objects in motion tend to stay in motion unless acted on by an outside force. This property is called *inertia*. The inertia of the moving marble keeps it on the side of the bowl. People in a moving car also have inertia. When the car stops suddenly, they will keep moving forward unless they are wearing seat belts. This is why seat belts are so important! Seat belts help stop the forward movement.

(Adapted from the very first activity in *Family Science*, now available as an eBook in [English](#) and as a print book in [Spanish](#).)

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## **STEM Center Spotlight Update**



**STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, is one of the premiere programs at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.** Developed through a systematic process of assessment and planning which started in 2003, the program is designed to help increase the number and diversity of well-prepared STEM graduates who will help to staff the U.S. and global scientific workforce, which is critical for the economic advancement, health and security of this nation.

Mentoring is a key component of the STEM initiatives. Upper division students mentor the lower division students. Also, each discipline in the STEM Academy has a designated faculty contact. The disciplines are science, technology (industrial); computer science; mathematics; physics; chemistry; biology; animal

## Check Out FREE Resources - Socially distant, virtually present

During this time, we know many organizations are creating and innovating new ways to help students, parents, and teachers stay safe while keeping them updated with virtual resources. [You can check out the resources we have so far here.](#)

If you have more information on projects and resources we may not have in our resource page and would like to share it with us, please contact [director@arkansasstemcoalition.com](mailto:director@arkansasstemcoalition.com) for more information.

In addition, if you have any virtual STEM based programs or events to take place that you would like us to announce, we would be glad to review them and put them on our event calendar at [www.arkansasstemcoalition.com](http://www.arkansasstemcoalition.com)! In order to get started, [click this link](#) to submit your event or program or email us at [info@arkansasstemcoalition.com](mailto:info@arkansasstemcoalition.com).

We may be distant from each other, but we can still be connected. Thank you for helping us keep the connection strong!



Arkansas Committed to Education Foundation  
**Thanks to another one of our awesome sponsors for STEM!**

The Arkansas STEM Coalition is grateful for the wonderful partners and sponsors who help make our mission to cultivate quality education in Arkansas possible each day, and we hope to continue to elevate STEM learning, quality programs, and proactive initiatives that will benefit all youth across the map and expand the capacity and diversity of the Arkansas STEM workforce pipeline.

## Support the Arkansas STEM Coalition!

We invite you to support our amazing STEM programs! The Arkansas STEM Coalition is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. If you would like to support us, click the blue box below or click the following links to donate today!

Give online at:  
[https://arkansasstemcoalition.com/donate/.](https://arkansasstemcoalition.com/donate/)

Email [director@arkansasstemcoalition.com](mailto:director@arkansasstemcoalition.com) for more information on how you can give to and partner with the Arkansas STEM Coalition.



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