



Newsletter

February 2021, Volume 2, Issue 7

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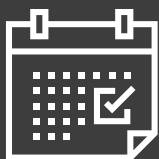
The February issue continues to emphasize learning for all! We have opportunities for community members near & far to learn more about the STEM TRAIL Center and to collaborate with us. On February 9th, Dr. Moore will share a 30,000 foot view point of the Center, and then zoom into existing projects, collaborations, and share voices from our partners. Thanks to our gracious hosts, the UNO Center for Community Engagement!

Undergraduate and high school students have the opportunity to hear from two past NE STEM 4U mentors (H. Won and M. Won) as they share the influence of the program on their pre-professional development while in the program, and the impact on their career trajectories and interests, now as graduate students at Harvard University. Additionally, Camaraderie Hours continue with special student-only networking opportunities around theme-driven support mechanisms. Don't miss out—we'll mail you some STC swag to decorate your WFH desk! And, apply now for summer internship opportunities.

Faculty from higher education and K-12 are invited to several workshops focusing on active learning and inquiry-generating approaches for the classroom with Dr. Uhing (Feb 19) and Dr. Vaughan (March 5) sharing insights. And, don't forget to apply for the 2021 cohort of the Teacher-Researcher Partnership Program! Additional resources surrounding **Digital Learning** and **Open Access Resources** are also included.

Finally, check out page 7 for the drumroll to the launch of a new program—coming in March from the OSE!

Wishing you health, wellness, and professional development for February!



Don't miss any events!

[Join Our Email List](#)

Do you know an exemplary STEM mentor?

Nominate them for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) today! Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to honor our Nation's greatest mentors.

Nominate them here.

Upcoming Events



Camaraderie Hours

About the Series: During the pandemic, we can't gather informally for camaraderie, so we're bringing it online. It's a perfect time to chat or just listen on in, so grab your breakfast/brunch/coffee/soda/cat, and join us!

We'd love to see you!

Wed, February 10 10:00am - 10:45am

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

Instructional Coaching & Research Mentoring Cohorts

Facilitator: Dr. Chris Moore, Assistant Director of the STEM TRAIL Center, Haddix Community Chair of Physical Science, Professor of Physics - College of Arts & Sciences

Looking for an Instructional Coach or Research Mentor? Join us to find a mentor, earn faculty professional development funds, and take your teaching and research to the next level.

Fri, February 12th 11:00am - 12:00pm

[Click here for more information and to register](#)



Enacting Departmental Changes to Promote Active Learning

Facilitator: Dr. Karina Uhing, Instructor, Department of Mathematics, University of Nebraska at Omaha

In this workshop, Dr. Uhing will present results from Phase 1 of the Student Engagement in Mathematics through an Institutional Network for Active Learning (SEMINAL) project. SEMINAL is a collaborative effort to better understand departmental and institutional change efforts for implementing active learning in precalculus and calculus courses. In particular, Dr. Uhing will discuss several change levers that were crucial to the successful implementation of active learning at six universities, and how these levers must be engaged in tandem to ensure sustainable change.

Fri, February 19th 11:00am - 12:00pm

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

STEM Outreach as a Critical Component of Post-Graduate Success

Facilitators:

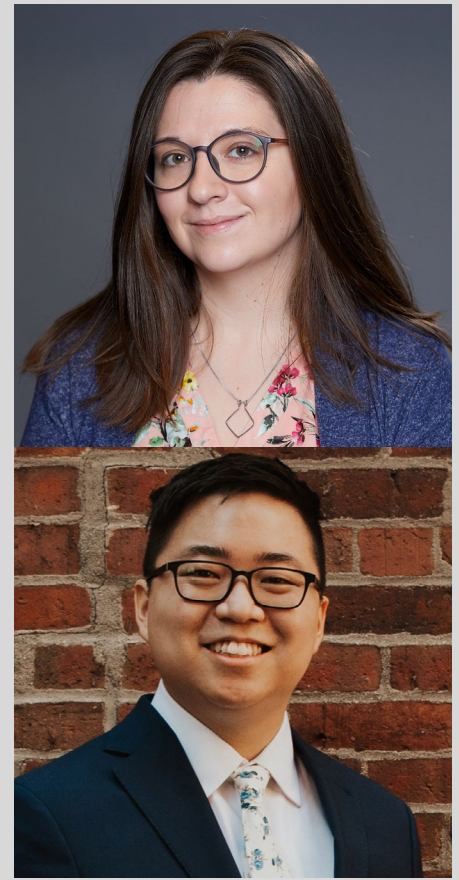
Harim Won, Ph.D. Candidate and NSF Graduate Research Fellow in the Biological Sciences in Public Health Program and Therapeutics Graduate Program at Harvard University.

Madalyn Won, Ph.D. Candidate in the Biological Sciences in Public Health Program and Therapeutics Graduate Program at Harvard University.

Learning to accessibly teach advanced STEM topics to younger students provides excellent training for undergraduate STEM students and develops the science communication skills which they will use throughout their careers. This workshop will outline steps undergraduate students should take while mentoring to effectively serve mentees and to prepare them for the next big step in their careers.

Wed, February 24th 10:00am - 11:00am

[Click here for more information and to register](#)



Preparing your Research Proposal Submission with the SPR Team



Facilitators:

Tiffani Hix, Director, Office of Research and Creative Activity

Shamaere Ashby, Grant Coordinator, Office of Research and Creative Activity

Amanda Buker, Grant Coordinator, Office of Research and Creative Activity

Rachel Meredith, Grant Coordinator, Office of Research and Creative Activity

The Office of Research and Creative Activity (ORCA) focuses on strengthening the University of Nebraska Omaha's (UNO) research, scholarly, and creative activity. Within ORCA, the Sponsored Programs & Research (SPR) team supports the UNO community through developing and submitting external funding to support these endeavors. This workshop will provide attendees with an overview of the process to submit a proposal for external funding.

Fri, February 26th 11:00am - 12:00pm

[Click here for more information and to register](#)



Designing an Inquiry-Based Approach to Blended and Online Learning

Facilitator: Dr. Norm Vaughan, Professor, Department of Education, Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

An inquiry-based approach to learning is based on John Dewey's (1933) philosophy that education begins with the curiosity of the learner. This session will provide participants an opportunity to use the Community of Inquiry (CoI) framework to discuss and design inquiry-based learning activities that engage students and align with the learning outcomes for a blended or online course.

Fri, March 5th 11:00am - 1:00pm

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

Camaraderie Hours - UNO Students Only

Undergraduate and graduate students, this hour is only for you! Join your peers to connect in this remote environment. During the pandemic, we can't gather informally for camaraderie, so we are bringing it online! It's the perfect time to chat or just listen in, so grab your breakfast/brunch/coffee/soda/cat, and join us! We'd love to see you!

Wed, March 24th 10:00am - 10:45am

It's an open floor! Discuss research ideas with peers.

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

Wed, April 7th 10:00am - 10:45am

Teaching in the STEM field - tips, tricks and best practices

[Click here for more information and to register](#)



CAMARADERIE HOURS

ATTEND, NETWORK, AND
GET SOME STC SWAG
MAILED TO YOU!

UNO STUDENTS ONLY

Professional Development Funding



STEM Teaching Practices Instructor Development Fellowship

The STEM TRAIL Center is pleased to offer professional development funding to full-time, non-tenure track faculty members at UNO. This program will provide up to \$1000 in funding per year to participate in conferences, workshops or training events related to improvement of courses. **Click here to find out more.**

Spring 2021 Affordable Content Grants: OER@UNO

Applications Now Available

Spring deadlines for grant applications are approaching. Full and part-time faculty who are interested in converting their courses from traditionally published materials to low or no cost materials are invited to apply.



Spring Deadline: February 15, 2021

Applications are now available in the [NuRamp system](#)! To apply, log in to the system using your NetID. You can find the Affordable Content Grants: OER@UNO – Spring 2021 applications under Internal Competitions. Applicants who are interested in viewing the full grant rubric can visit our [OER Research Guide](#). Grantees will receive \$2,500 for the utilization of affordable content. Grant recipients will be notified by March 1, 2021.

Who Can Apply?

Full- or part-time faculty who are interested in converting their courses from traditionally published materials to low or no cost materials are eligible to apply. We continue to encourage faculty who are interested in converting their general education curriculum to apply as well.

Why is Affordable Content Important?

In addition to the financial benefits for students, affordable content encourages a level playing field in which all students have access to materials on the first day of class. There is also research that indicates OER can help with retention and GPA, while increasing opportunities for creative pedagogical approaches.

What is Affordable Content?

Affordable Content is anything that is no cost to students. This can include any of the vast OER resources available, library eBooks and journal articles, free content available online, content you've created, and more! In order for courses to qualify for the grant, total costs to students must be less than \$40/semester.

Affordable Content in STEM

STEM classes are a great place to incorporate affordable content. As a result of historically high prices in traditionally published STEM textbooks, there are many OER and Affordable Content options to choose from and student savings can add up quickly! We've had any STEM successes right here at UNO including JJ Conrad and Josh Darr converting their General Chemistry I classes, Zac Suriano authoring his own Geography 1050 lab manual, and Kristen Johnson and Katie Shirazi adopting an open lab manual for their Microbiology courses.



Who Do I Contact for More Information?

Tonya Ferrell is the campus OER Coordinator and is happy to meet or answer questions about affordable content and the grants by email (tferrell@unomaha.edu) or phone (402.554.3924).

Request for Proposals: Teacher-Researcher Partnership Program (TRPP) 2021

Deadline Friday, February 26, 2021

The science **Teacher-Researcher Partnership Program (TRPP)** at UNO is seeking proposals from faculty interested in serving as research mentors to OPS teacher-researchers during **summer/fall 2021**. Full details and application instructions are posted at: cas.unomaha.edu/trpp.



The TRPP is a partnership between UNO and Omaha Public Schools (OPS), which supports the creation of a science ecosystem by providing opportunities for teachers and subsequently youth in the Omaha area to conduct genuine scientific research projects. Participating K-12 science teachers and instructional coaches are matched with UNO faculty mentors in a broad range of science disciplines. Teachers and mentors will collaboratively conduct an approximately 80-hour research project between June 1-July 15. Weekly journal club discussions and a post-project research symposium provide valuable opportunities to evaluate current research, develop collaborative relationships, and broaden the scope of each experience beyond a single project. Mentor benefits include a summer stipend for research, mentorship, and time, plus funding for supplies and services that support the research. Teachers receive a stipend, learn transferable skills via opportunities to network and collaborate with leaders in science disciplines, and gain access to resources, equipment, and technical training at UNO. Most importantly, research collaborations continue into the academic year to translate authentic science research into the K-12 environment.

If you have questions, contact Heather Leas (hdleas@unomaha.edu).

UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER EXPERIENCE

RISE: Research in Interdisciplinary STEM Education is a 9-week residential summer research experience for undergraduate students in biology, chemistry, education, microbiology, mathematics, or physics. Participants will join interdisciplinary teams mentored by science, math, and education faculty to investigate STEM learning across formal and informal environments with a particular focus on understanding issues related to inclusivity and diversity in STEM. We welcome students interested in STEM education from diverse educational settings at varying stages of their training.

For More Information or to Apply, Visit: <http://labs.wsu.edu/rise>

Application deadline: February 14, 2021

Stipend: \$5750

For more information you can also contact PI Erika Offerdahl (erika.offerdahl@wsu.edu)

RISE

Research in Interdisciplinary STEM Education

Resources from the Office of Digital Learning

Campus Conversations: A Professional Development Opportunity for Those Involved in Online Learning

Tuesday, February 9 10:00am - 11:00am

In this live webcast, cohosted by the University of Nebraska at Omaha and University of Nebraska Online, Dr. Michelle Pacansky-Brock, author of “Best Practices for Teaching with Emerging Technologies,” presents “Humanizing Online Learning: Leveraging Relationships to Fuel Engagement and Rigor.”

[Find more details here](#)

Connecting with Your Students: Best Practices in Humanizing Online Teaching & Learning

Wednesday, February 24 3:00pm - 4:00pm

If you missed the “Humanizing Online Teaching & Learning” sessions sponsored by Digital Learning in December and January, then this interactive 45-minute presentation is for you. Kathy Radosta, English faculty member, will be sharing what she learned, including strategies on how to connect with your students. From a faculty member’s perspective, this redux and presentation of best practices for humanizing your online or remote course will change the way you think about how to connect with your students.

[Find more details here.](#)

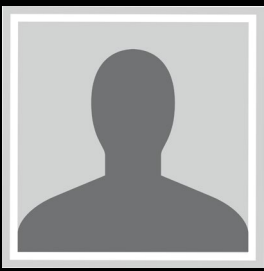


The Omaha STEM Ecosystem, in partnership with AIM Institute, is excited for the March 2021 launch of the STEM Community Platform (SCP). This is an online clearinghouse of information about STEM programs, offerings, career information, and mathematics, cataloged in one convenient location.

Why is this so important? We believe that a healthy, vibrant community depends on a skilled and growing workforce. To achieve this end, a strong infrastructure and capacity to connect and collaborate is essential.

The STEM Community Platform will create a community culture as THE primary resource for sharing and promoting STEM programs and resources.

For information on how to add your programs or resources, contact: Julie Sigmon julie.sigmon@omahazoo.com



This could be YOU.

Apply now to be an NE STEM 4U mentor for summer 2021.

www.unomaha.edu/academic-affairs/ne-stem-for-u

Resources & Opportunities

A Remote Professional Development Experience

For more information and to apply, [click here](#).



Students looking for opportunities?

We have them! [Visit our website!](#)

STEM Scramble!

- SAUNTR** _____ A Planet
- SAESSEILLITT** _____ An object that orbits a larger object
- RVEDCSIYO** _____ To find
- LTIT** _____ Another word for "leaning"

Fun Fact: Curious why these words matter this month? **Check it out!** **Answers in next month's issue.*



Consider a Gift, Support an Intern at your Company, or Volunteer!

Interested in donating? Please consider contributions to our UNO STEM TRAIL Center Excellence Fund #01149830 at the Nebraska University Foundation:

Checks can be mailed to:

University of Nebraska Foundation

PO Box 3465

Omaha, NE 68103-0465

reference: 01149830 - UNO STEM TRAIL Center Excellence Fund

[Or gifts can be remitted electronically.](#)

Let us know how we can support you:

unostemtrailcenter@unomaha.edu



Follow us on Twitter!
@UNOSTEMTRAIL

Have an idea for future programming? Interested in contributing your time or talents to the STC? Contact us!

STEM TRAIL Center unostemtrailcenter@unomaha.edu

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