



Newsletter

November 2020, Volume 2, Issue 4

National STEM Day November 8th

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Don't miss any events!

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opportunities that we offer?**

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Over the past couple of months we have highlighted some of the ongoing collaborations of the STEM TRAIL Center within our state, local community, and across UNO. This month is all about pragmatic tips, tricks, and resources. This month and next, we will host speakers who will share their expertise surrounding action items that we can use to reflect on the past year, and build into our goals for 2021.

Resources to build your 2021 goals: if you're working on your new teaching goals for 2021, then join the Teaching Practices workshop with Dr. Wolcott as well as the Center for Faculty Excellence workshops on building inclusive syllabi. Students can join Alaina G. Levine to learn about 10+ things that they can do now to get a job. And, students, don't forget to use the searchable database found on the last page for STEM internships across the U.S. for summer 2021! Perhaps you're aiming to find a research team to help complement your expertise, share best practices (and lessons learned!) with you, or for overall camaraderie in grant proposal preparation—then please join our mentor cohorts the 2nd Friday of each month. Finally, if you've checked all of the boxes above, but simply want to learn about the newest research in teaching and learning, join us for Jack Parkinson's talk as part of the Discipline-Based Education Research series.

Lastly, be sure to post some fun activities for National STEM Day on Nov 8, and tag us @UNOSTEMTRAIL! Check out the recent Governor's proclamation of the outstanding STEM work of the Omaha STEM Ecosystem, congratulations to Julie Sigmon, Director of the OSE!

Upcoming Events

STUDENTS! These events are for YOU!



How to Spot Research Resources in the Wild: Finding and Collecting What You Need

Facilitator:

Dr. Heidi Blackburn, STEM and Business Librarian, Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Library

Join Dr. Heidi Blackburn for a hands-on presentation as we identify the characteristics of different academic sources and where you can expect to find them in specific UNO Libraries databases. Tips for conducting searches and collecting literature will be provided. Students are encouraged to follow along on their own devices and to bring questions.

Wed, November 11th 11:00am - 12:00pm

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

10+ Things You Can Do NOW to Get a Job and Move Your Career Forward

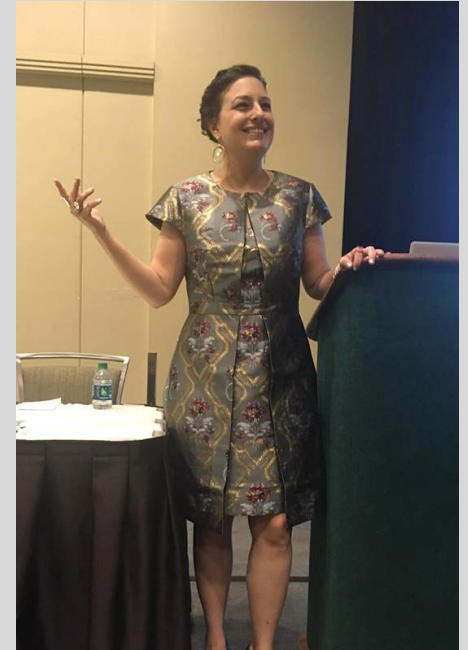
Facilitator:

Alaina G. Levine, President, [Quantum Success Solutions](#), Author, *Networking for Nerds* (Wiley, 2015)

In this webinar, you will learn specific tasks you can do RIGHT NOW to get a job and advance in your career. You will emerge with a solid and strategic plan that you can adapt at any stage of your career, but is especially valuable for those who are about to graduate or finish their postdoc and haven't lined up a position yet.

Wed, November 18th 10:00am - 11:00am

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



Missed a program? Grab your coffee and settle in, we have the recordings [right here!](#)



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, November 13th 11:00am - 12:00pm

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

The Relationship between Spatial Skills and Computing Science

Speaker:

Mr. Jack Parkinson - Centre for Computing Science Education, School of Computing Science, University of Glasgow

This talk will briefly cover the nature of spatial skills, discuss the work which connects spatial skills with Computing Science and explore the potential impact of ongoing research for Computing students and possibly beyond.

Wed, November 20th 11:00am - 12:00pm

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



STEM Education During a Pandemic: Challenges, Opportunities, and Lessons

Facilitator:

Dr. Peter Wolcott, Professor and Chair of the Department of Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis (ISQA)

A panel of faculty from the College of IS&T will discuss their experiences in STEM education during the pandemic. These faculty reflect a variety of experiences, course levels and pedagogies, including service learning, labs, active learning, real-time and synchronous modes, and face-to-face.

Fri, December 4th 11:00am - 12:00pm

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

Events from the Center for Faculty Excellence

The Ways and Whys to Build Inclusive Syllabi

Friday, November 20

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

[Register to attend](#) this panel discussion on creating more inclusive syllabi. Led by UNO faculty from across campus, panelists will share their experiences and how factors such as race, class, sex / gender, body (orientation and ability), and mind (mental health) shape classroom expectations. Discussions and strategies for opening a larger and ongoing dialogue to create more inclusive learning environments will be featured.

Canvas Orientation for Faculty

Monday, December 14, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. [Register for Session I](#)

Thursday, December 17, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. [Register for Session II](#)

Join the Center for Faculty Excellence and Office of Digital Learning for one or both sessions of Canvas Orientation for Faculty. These unique sessions will include a brief overview of resources available to faculty on the University of Nebraska at Omaha's campus as well as an overview of UNO's online learning platform, Canvas. These sessions are available for all new and returning full- and part-time faculty and instructors.

From the Office of Digital Learning

December 1 is the next session on "Creating Inclusive Learning Experiences with Universal Design"

Using Thomas J. Tobin and Kirsten T. Behling's "Reach Everyone Teach Everyone" (2018) as this year's book selection as a starting point, faculty and instructors are invited to participate in a [series of learning labs](#) throughout the academic year.

The Keep Teaching Fall Series continues with the following events:

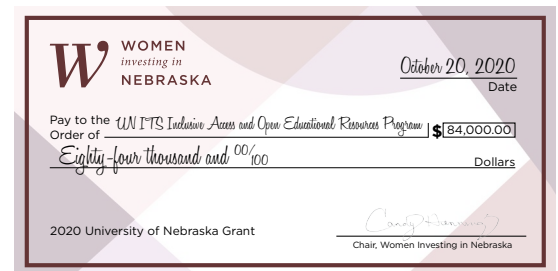
Nov. 11-12 "Let's Talk Discussion Boards"

Nov. 18-19 "New Semester Tune-Ups"

[Keep Teaching workshops](#) are hosted by the Office of Digital Learning with select sessions featuring faculty co-presenters. Please direct questions to the team at uno.its.digitallearning@unomaha.edu.

Grant awarded to assist with the Inclusive Access and Open Educational Resources Program

The University of Nebraska received an [\\$84,000 grant to assist a program](#) that is lowering the cost of textbooks and other materials for students at UNL, UNK and UNO. The program provides access to [open educational resources](#) — digital materials available freely or at reduced cost — as well as assistance for faculty members who seek the appropriate academic materials for their classes at lower costs for students. The Inclusive Access and Open Educational Resources Program began in 2017 with a series of initial grants from the university and has saved students an estimated \$2.5 million.



UNO's Assistant Director of Academic Technology honored in ITS

Rick Murch-Shafer, assistant director for Academic Technologies, is the recipient of the 2020 University of Nebraska Technology Excellence Award. [Murch-Shafer was recognized](#) for his work ethic, commitment to customer service and professionalism as part of the University of Nebraska at Omaha's (UNO) Digital Learning team. "Rick is an outstanding listener and is very patient. He meets faculty where they are in using technology and never makes anyone feel like they are asking an unimportant or silly question."

For additional Digital Learning Support, or to submit a story for Digital Learning, contact jbuzzell@unomaha.edu.

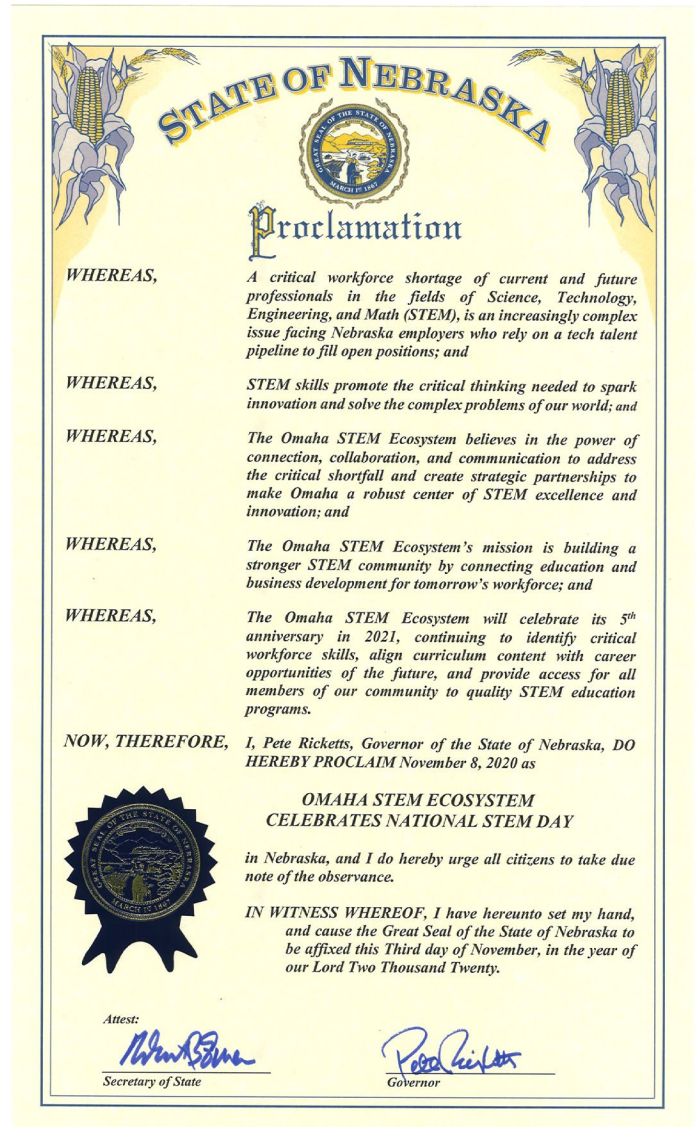
Exciting News for the Omaha STEM Ecosystem!

The Omaha STEM Ecosystem (OSE), as led from the base of the UNO STEM TRAIL Center and that of the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, (as well as 14 other founding organizations and many other STEM workforce partnering organizations), has been leading a series of online round tables related to STEM and best practices during COVID-19 social distancing. More than 250 people attended those round tables across 3 sessions, representing 64 Omaha STEM-related organizations.

This recent roundtable work, as well as other OSE initiatives, recently came on the radar of the Governor's Office, and he just sent a proclamation recognizing the work of the OSE. It is associated with several recognitions that he is doing in accordance with National STEM Day, November 8th.

Special congratulations and recognition to Julie Sigmon, OSE Director (and UNO employee) on her ongoing and highly collaborative work, including with many other UNO and Omaha STEM colleagues, that led to this recognition.

OSE Founding Organizations include: UNO, the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, UNL Engineering, UNMC, Pacific Life Foundation, Metropolitan Community College, the Peter Kiewit Foundation, Clarkson College, the Applied Information Management Institute, Union Pacific, the Hubbard Foundation, the Parker Family Foundation, the Nebel Family, the Metropolitan Omaha Education Consortium, the John Day Company (Dream It Do It), and the Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NEHII).



The Omaha STEM Ecosystem invites you- to join us for this very interactive presentation on engaging and motivating learners!

Hybrid or Blended Environments: Engaging and Motivating Learners Wherever Learning is Happening

Thursday, December 3rd, 2020 8:30am- 9:30am

The Omaha STEM Ecosystem and Project Lead The Way are partnering to host a virtual event to collaborate and share best practices in the new space we all find ourselves in for learning and collaborating. Engaging and motivating learners is a challenge educators face regardless of where learning takes place, but it can be increasingly difficult in these new structures of learning. This collaborative session will provide tips and tools to engage your learners, build excitement for your content, and discover meaningful ways to motivate learners to tackle real-world problems. We hope you will join us for this collaborative session where best practices and resources will be shared from across the region.

[Register Here](#)



Resources & Opportunities

Undergraduates:
Find your summer 2021 Internship here!

[Search the database](#)

RISE Research for
Inclusive STEM
Education Center

Upcoming “RISE Up for racial justice” events

[Black women and belongingness: An interrogation of STEM education as a white, patriarchal space](#)

Seminar

When: Thursday, Nov. 19, 2 p.m. (CT)

Speakers: Luis Leyva, Vanderbilt University; and Nicole Joseph, Vanderbilt University

Zoom: asu.zoom.us/j/94696434185

[An exploratory investigation of the experiences of Black immigrant women in undergraduate STEM](#)

Seminar

When: Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2 p.m. (CT)

Speakers: Meseret Hailu, Arizona State University; and Brooke Coley, Arizona State University

Zoom: asu.zoom.us/j/98196412224



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unostemtrailcenter@unomaha.edu

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

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