

Press release



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Penn State Berks Chapter, American Chemical Society

For immediate release

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Local Teacher to Discuss Innovative Technologies for Science Instruction at Penn State Berks National Chemistry Week Teachers' Brunch

STEM, or science, technology, engineering and math, is an acronym that is commonly used when referring to fields of scientific innovation, education, economics and sustainability. It is used even more in referring to key areas of K-12 education. In a country where only 16 percent of high school seniors are proficient in mathematics, ranking the United States 25th in mathematics and 17th in science among industrialized nations, it is no surprise that STEM education has been elevated as a national priority.

So just how do STEM educators go about tackling this problem? Are there innovative tools that can be integrated into classroom instruction that engage students and increase student understanding of science, technology, engineering and mathematics?

Terence Laughlin, M.Ed., will answer these questions and more during the Penn State Berks Chapter of the American Chemical Society Teachers' Brunch on the Penn State Berks Campus, Thun Library, at 1800 Broadcasting Road, Reading, PA on Saturday, October 18th, 2014 from 10:00 am - 11:15 am. Terence Laughlin's presentation, Educational Technology Tools for the Chemistry Classroom, takes place from 10:30 am to 11:15 am. A light brunch and beverages will be served. The brunch is free to K-12 educators with registration, and is open to American Chemical Society members and the general public with a registration fee of \$7.50. A Science Teacher's Resource Fair featuring teacher and classroom resources, information about the new American Association of Chemistry Teachers, as well as professional development and classroom funding opportunities available from the American Chemical Society will also take place from 11:15 am - 12:00 pm. As part of the resource fair, The Yocum Institute for Performing Arts will be providing a special performance of "How to Think Like a Scientist" at 11:45 am. The day will also feature the *You Be The Chemist*[®] (YBTC) Essential Elements hands-on-demonstration workshop, facilitated by Chemical Education Foundation[®] Professional Education Instructor, Greglynn Gibbs in conjunction with the Penn State Berks Family and Homecoming Weekend from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm.

Teachers will receive instructional books and kits to take back to their classrooms that will reinforce the YBTC Challenge® learning objectives. Guests are welcome to join in the campus festivities. Space is limited! To register, please contact Greglynn Gibbs at 610.396.6363 or gdw104@psu.edu.

Mr. Terence Laughlin earned his BS in Chemistry Education from West Chester University (1994) and his M.Ed. from Wilkes University (2003). He currently teaches chemistry at Blue Mountain High School after previously teaching science at the middle level. He was recognized as a Keystone Educator for his innovative work in integrating technology in the classroom. From 2005-2009, he helped develop the Regional Summer School for Excellence (RSSE) MyEARTH program at Nolde Environmental Education Center. Since 2004, he has been an adjunct professor for Wilkes University and the past 4 years taught the *You be the Chemist!*, *Video Game Design* and *NCIS: Nittany Crime Investigative Service* science summer camps at Penn State Berks. He has conducted numerous professional staff development workshops for teachers ranging on topics such as *ArcView/GIS*, *Interactive White Boards (IWB)*, *Collecting Real Time Data with Graphing Calculators and Probes*, and *Advanced Excel for Teachers* at Berks IU#14, Schuylkill IU#29, PSTA and PETE&C.

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The American Chemical Society is the world's largest scientific society with a membership of more than 163,000 members. It publishes scientific journals, sponsors research conferences, and provides resources for chemistry teachers and students. Its main offices are in Washington, D.C., and Columbus, Ohio.

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