



WHSTEP 2020 HIGHLIGHTS



Co-Chair report

I would like to start by saying “Wow”, and also like to express my thanks to our community for coming together in these unprecedented and challenging times. A special shout out to the educators, who had to learn and change to an online curriculum (“Techno-Teaching”), then to a part online model, then back to the classroom, then back to online, then add in their own children’s schedule into the equation. One might say they were like “Ginger Rogers that did what Fred Astaire did, only backwards and in heels.” Job well done and WHSTEP will continue to be a collaboration resource to support your work and efforts.

One thing I can take away from the past year is that Science education and science communication has proved to be very important, essential for our survival, one might say. For over 30 years WHSTEP has used a “face to face, connect and collaborate” model, bringing local school districts and science institutions together to act as a resource to enhance and support science education. After a successful beginning of the year, with the science fair mentors and the winter meeting, the “meet and mingle” model was not going to work, at least for the foreseeable future, for what would become obvious reasons. Changes were imminent, we adjusted, and will continue to adapt, as needed. First and foremost, sad to say, Sarah Fuller (WHOI) had to resign as co-chairman, and her leadership and wit will be missed. Jessica Donohue (SEA) has stepped up to fill that position and we welcome her leadership and wit - welcome and thank you!! Meetings and activities had to be postponed. The 30th Anniversary celebration will be the 30+ Anniversary when meeting together is available and safe once again. We wanted to extend a thank you to the institutions who gave an additional contribution for our 30 year celebration! We still plan on using your thoughtful donations for our 30+ year celebration and we look forward to seeing everyone in person then.

We have been able to adapt to an online model for access to scientists and engineers, as well as science fair mentors and judges. If you have volunteered in the past and you feel that you (or a colleague) might have been left off of the mailing list, please send us an email and we’ll get you connected again. We are still offering WHSTEP mini grants, which continue to provide money to teachers for special projects. We have liaisons in buildings who can answer questions or provide a direction. If you don’t know your building’s liaison, ask an administrator. If you are a liaison, please introduce yourself to your building. Should you have questions or suggestions, please contact us. Until we can meet again, word on the streets and electronic media will be our best communication. As we proceed into the next year WHSTEP will continue to adapt and with your help, enhance science education in our community, and beyond.

March 4th, 2020

Winter Meeting – Lawrence School

WHSTEP's Winter Meeting featured speakers from Bourne High School, Lawrence School, and Mashpee Middle High School discussing "Makers"! Amy Fish (Innovation Studio Facilitator- BHS), Lynn O'Connell (Technology/Coding Club Teacher- Lawrence), and Amanda Hough (Technology/Engineering Teacher- MMHS) presented projects highlighting coding, engineering, and Maker Spaces.

Mini-Grants Awarded

Amanda Hough (Mashpee MHS): "Drones: Delivering Relevant Opportunities to Navigate Engagement in Students" and "Virtually Hacking for a Better World"

Mairead Mayen (Quashnet): "Truweigh Elemental Digital Liquid Scales"

Stacy Strong (Falmouth PS): "Microscopes for Falmouth Public Elementary Schools"

Laishona Vitelli (Mashpee MHS): "Morse Code Communication"

Introducing: ***Lab Date!***

Lab Date can help educators connect with a scientist, engineer, or technical specialist for special projects such as:

- Mentoring a student who is working on a project
- Providing assistance to plan science lessons
- Helping to design and deliver a teacher in-service program
- Making an in-class science presentation or leading a classroom activity
- Visiting a classroom to talk about careers in a science area
- Providing a data set for a science or applied math exercise
- Working with a teacher on education grant proposal preparation
- Hosting a group visit to a lab or other facility

Spread the word! Contact us with a request (email whstep-info@whoi.edu) or sign up below to be matched.

Lab Date **Teachers** sign up form: <https://forms.gle/nFdSG1LCgy2KCzq46>

Lab Date **Scientists** sign up form: <https://forms.gle/FH5JqtWfUR15qnkQ6>

Upcoming Events

February 4th, 2021

Lab Date Live with Jessica Donohue from the Sea Education Association discussing ocean plastic pollution - surface distribution of microplastics, how we sample at sea, the state of the current science and some ways to move towards solutions. Look out for an announcement soon!

*Lab Date Live events are streamed live via Zoom

Science Fairs coming to a school near you!

WHSTEP is looking for mentor and judge volunteers for the schools below. All are **virtual** meetings with students. These meetings let students present their initial ideas or projects and results in order to get some guidance regarding the scope of their project as well as experimental design thoughts from an experienced scientist. It truly means a lot to the students and it's a great way to give back to the local community during a tough year. Please pass this note along to your colleagues and encourage people to volunteer!

Mashpee Middle High School: **Date Change-** January 19, 21, 25, 27, and 29 from 1:20-2:50 pm each day. Contact: Tom Hoppensteadt thoppensteadt@mpspk12.org

Falmouth Academy: Thursday, February 18th
Contact: Alison Ament aament@falmouthacademy.org

Falmouth High School: End of Feb and/or early March
Contact: Cory Dubuque cdubuque@falmouth.k12.ma.us
Mentor Sign Up Link- <https://forms.gle/C6XHm58sTYk5yEso9>

Southeast Regional Science Fair: March
Contact: Amy Fish afish@bourneps.org

**For more information about past
WHSTEP Events and Programs,
visit our website at
www.who.edu/whstep and look
under our EVENTS section!**

Resources

* Resources for Educators *

[MBL SciShoots](#)
[MBL YouTube Channel](#)
[WHOI - Ocean at Home](#)
[WHOI - Ocean Encounters](#)
[WHOI - News & Insights](#)
[Woods Hole Sea Grant - NOAA Live YouTube Channel](#)
[WHOI - Broader Impacts Group](#)
[Woods Hole Sea Grant](#)
[New England Ocean Science Education Collaborative](#)
[National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation](#)
[Striped Bass Magic](#)
[Data Nuggets](#)
[SEA Story Maps](#)
[SEA Currents: Videos](#)
[NOAA - Find A Species](#)
[NOAA - Ocean Science](#)
[USGS - Science Explorer](#)
[WBNERR Education Programs](#)
[WHRC Webinar Series](#)
[Cape Cod STEM Network](#)
[Mass.gov Ocean Education](#)

* Summer Opportunities for Students *

[Waquoit Bay Reserve Summer Science School](#)
[Woods Hole Children's School of Science](#)
[Marine Biological Laboratory Children's Programs](#)
[SEA High School Summer Programs](#)
[Falmouth Academy Summer Programs](#)

* Field Trip Planning *

[Mashpee Wampanoag Museum](#)
[WHOI Ocean Science Exhibit Center](#)
[MBL Marine Resources Center and Tours](#)
[NOAA Woods Hole Science Aquarium](#)
[Waquoit Bay Reserve School Programs](#)
[Buzzards Bay Coalition School Programs](#)

* Resources for Scientists *

[Resources for K-12 Classroom Visits](#)
[COSEE Broader Impact Tools](#)