



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
EDUCATION ACTIVITY
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MAR - 8 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR AREA DIRECTORS
AREA SUPERINTENDENTS FOR CIA
AREA ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS FOR CIA
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS
PRINCIPALS

SUBJECT: DoDEA-wide Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Events

The purpose of this memorandum is to promote our exciting, student-centered K-12 STEM events this spring. These STEM events will provide real life, problem-based learning opportunities for students to use today's tools to solve tomorrow's problems, which cross disciplines and have global implications. We will use these events to usher in a new era of collaboration, cooperation, and communication between DoDEA students and educators, Federal STEM professionals, and community members. As you might expect, the excitement generated in the preparation of these events has been transformative for our organization.

These STEM events are designed to compliment DoDEA's focus on 21st century teaching and learning. Each event, managed and supported by the districts, is intended to ignite the passion of students and expose them to the practical application of STEM disciplines. They will also serve as the catalyst for our students to prepare for the higher levels of math, science, engineering, and computer programming coursework necessary for college, career and life readiness. Our students will focus on disciplines such as Green Technology Engineering, Robotics, Biotechnology, Geophysics, Nuclear Engineering, and Environmental Engineering and will participate in hands-on learning environments facilitated by our DoDEA educators in 16 DoDEA locations worldwide from April 16 – May 11, 2012. These lessons and activities will be digitally documented and broadcasted to DoDEA students and teachers. The lesson plans developed and used for these STEM events will be collected and stored in a database that can be accessed by DoDEA teachers.

We are very pleased to announce, too, our partnership with the Office of Personnel Management to provide Federal, STEM employees as mentors for our teachers and students during these events. These STEM professionals and DoDEA educators will create meaningful lessons and activities to enhance student learning experiences. Federal STEM professionals also will lead sessions designed to expose students to Federal career opportunities and internships in the STEM area.

To be successful, this initiative must have your full support and I encourage you to include as many teachers, students, parents, and community members as possible to participate in the start of this dynamic program that will benefit our students, our government, and our Nation.

Thank you for all you do to support our students and their families. Please direct questions or concerns to Dr. Mark Bignell, Chief, Arts, Information, and Careers, who can be reached by email (Mark.Bignell@hq.dodea.edu) or by telephone at 703-588-3114.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marilee Fitzgerald".

Marilee Fitzgerald
Director

Attachments:

1. Schedule of Events
2. Memorandum from Secretary Berry
3. FAQs for Federal STEM Professionals