



Pre-Session Abstract

“Hands-on Workshop: ‘Making’ Sense of STEM Learning Through Community Science Workshops”

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Summary:

Learn how to design a STEM learning environment that fosters creativity, innovation, and experimentation while effectively implementing State Standards, NGSS, or the scientific and engineering practices.

Description

This workshop will highlight the Sanger Community Science Workshop concept as an example of how to build a community of like-minded young people, adult mentors, and organizations to support high quality STEM learning. Participants will engage with scientific and engineering practices while tinkering, envisioning project designs, and building working models from simple materials. This workshop will serve as a resource for those involved in K-12 STEM education at all levels: teachers, informal educators, after school educators, administrators, and parent and education advocacy groups.

In California, Community Science Workshops are established in high poverty, high minority communities and offer free after school drop-in programming, family science programs, summer programs, and school site programs. Professional development is also offered to help establish similar programs in both the formal and informal learning environments. The program stresses recruiting and training STEM instructors who are also role models from the community, a critical element for increasing participation by women and minorities in STEM careers.