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Minnesota STEM Teacher Center Launched

Center to Provide Online Resources for Minnesota K-12 Mathematics and Science Educators

Roseville, MN - The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and SciMathMN have launched a new virtual Minnesota STEM Teacher Center. Designed as a resource for Minnesota's educators in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subject areas, the center provides support for educators and parents with online access to a first-of-its kind, nation-leading Frameworks for Minnesota Mathematics and Science Standards.

"Together, the center and the Frameworks offer a wealth of resources for Minnesota educators," said Minnesota Department of Education Assistant Commissioner Rose W. Chu. "The Frameworks provide information about content students should master and context for how they can best learn it. They also connect teachers to resources that will help them translate mathematics and science standards into engaging classroom practices that will lead to better learning experiences for all students."

The eight-month collaboration between the Minnesota Department of Education and SciMathMN utilized the talents of over 170 Minnesota educators and experts to create an accessible and intuitive web-based tool that will support professional development, curriculum organization, and instructional planning. Fifty Minnesota teachers were selected as writers, representing urban, suburban and rural school districts in all grades K-12. Postsecondary content experts served as reviewers and education and business leaders contributed to the planning and development process.

"A diverse group of educational leaders and practitioners lent their expertise to the project," said Frameworks Project Director Mike Lindstrom. "The results will benefit students, teachers and parents statewide."

The online tool includes explanations of the standards and benchmarks, common student misconceptions, examples of classroom best practices for standards delivery, resources for differentiation, sample assessment items, suggestions for administrators and parents, and the opportunities for users to provide feedback and connect to other online information and resources. The Frameworks can be accessed at <http://www.scimathmn.org/STEMTC>

“The STEM Teacher Center was designed to provide all Minnesota teachers with online resources that will assist them in helping students gain the essential knowledge and skills necessary to master K-12 mathematics and science standards,” said Sally Standiford, Executive Director of SciMathMN. “Our ultimate goal is that every student finds academic success that will help them compete in a global marketplace and make educated decisions as citizens.”

Workshops on the Frameworks will be offered beginning August 4th in locations around the state. Participants will learn how to access and use the Frameworks for planning instruction, developing curriculum, writing assessments, and facilitating professional development. Contact MDE's STEM specialist Doug Paulson for information at doug.paulson@state.mn.us.

Founded in 1993, SciMathMN is a non-profit, statewide education and business coalition advocating for quality K-12 science, mathematics and technology education based on research, national standards and effective practices. For more information please go to www.scimathmn.org.

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