



Sept 23 2026 **News, Resources, & Notes**



OHIO EDUCATOR SUMMIT

this issue

News & Resources **P.1**

More News & Resources **P.5**

Outreach Notes **P.10**

Upcoming Events:

1. [Ohio Educators Summit](#) / OTEEA Conference, October 21, 2026, River Valley High School, Caledonia, OH
2. [ITEEA Conference](#), March 31 - April 3, 2027, Louisville, KY
3. National Robotics Challenge, April 15 - 17, 2027, Marion, OH

OTEEA webinars
[online archive](#)

OTEEA News, Resources, and Notes [online archive](#)

STEM is Elementary
[Newsletter Subscription And Archived Issues](#)

[STEM competitions and more resources](#) spreadsheet

[Link to OTEEA membership form](#)

The Ohio Educator Summit Wednesday, October 21

The Ohio Technology and Engineering Educators Association (OTEEA) is co-hosting the 2026 [Ohio Educator Summit](#) on **Wednesday**, October 21st, in cooperation with River Valley Local Schools at River Valley High School. If you teach classes in nearly any area of technology, you will find a session that applies to your curriculum.

Registration is now open at the [Ohio Educator Summit](#) website, click on the Attend tab. The early bird rate is available until October 9. OTEEA members get 25% off using the promo code OTEEA.

Some selected session topics, more are on the website including several on AI uses.

Engineering / Construction / Shop Teacher Meet-Up - Levi Brown, Riverdale Schools

You're not alone in the shop! Take 45 minutes to connect with other educators who understand the unique demands of teaching construction, pre-engineering, and industrial technology. This is an open floor for collaboration: troubleshoot equipment issues, discuss safety protocols, share funding strategies, or team up on curriculum alignment. Let's build a stronger community and find shared solutions to elevate our programs.

Maker Lab - Aubree Horning, Marlinton Local

Take a tech break and rediscover the joy of building! In this hands-on play session, step away from screens and dive into a collection of engaging makerspace tools and materials designed to spark creativity and curiosity. Participants will explore simple, playful building challenges using everyday maker

materials that encourage tinkering, problem-solving, and collaboration. Whether you're new to makerspaces or looking to recharge your creative energy, this session offers a refreshing reminder of the power of hands-on learning. Come build, experiment, and leave with ideas you can bring back to your classroom or learning space to inspire students to create, design, and innovate.

Using AI to Make the Old New Again -
Gina Bruce, South Western City Schools

No more throwing away those much-loved dusty lesson plans! In this class, teachers at any grade level will learn how to rejuvenate their old curricula with the help of using artificial intelligence as an instrument of imagination. Find out how to easily turn old PDF files and even books into Socratic dialogue bots, gamified assignments, and projects thanks to multimodal teaching. Through knowledge of "4 Rs" - re-leveling, re-formatting, re-contextualizing, and re-engaging, you will get back your valuable time spent on preparing the materials and ensure that the class is interesting to your kids!

Introduction to Generative AI & Prompt Engineering - Gina Bruce, South Western City Schools

This presentation demystifies Generative AI and Prompt Engineering for the modern classroom. Designed for both K-12 and Higher Education, the session moves beyond the "hype" to explore how AI actually functions—not as a magic box, but as a sophisticated pattern-recognition engine.

Participants will master the art of the prompt through the "PREPARE" framework, learning how to transform vague queries into high-fidelity pedagogical tools.

Vibe Coding Student-Facing Tools in Minutes -
John Mansel-Pleydell, Northern Buckeye

Ready to build custom, interactive learning tools without writing a single line of code? Welcome to the era of 'vibe coding'! In this energetic, hands-on workshop, we will app smash the creative power of Gemini and Claude with the structure of Google

Sites and TeacherHive. Step-by-step, you'll learn how to prompt AI to design tailored educational content, integrate it into a sleek interface, and deploy a functional app your students can use tomorrow. Bring your device, bring your vibe, and leave as a certified app creator. No tech background required!

MakerSpace Across the Curriculum -
Paul Shircliff

Kids love making stuff. We need to harness that engagement to help them learn the course content. We will share examples of and come up with ways to incorporate Maker-Centered Learning in all content areas and all grade levels (specifically yours). We can chat about pedagogy, tools, good practices, and lessons learned. All while getting our hands busy making something from common MakerSpace materials. Making always helps our brain to process ideas and have conversations.

Mars Exploration - Tim Schlernitzauer, Engineer at The Timken Company - Retired

An inside look at the development of the Mars Science Laboratories "Curiosity" and "Perseverance"

Dig the Vid - An Introduction to Using Google Vids - Kristie Hughes, Northern Buckeye

Unleash the power of video storytelling with Google Vids, the AI-powered video creation app integrated seamlessly with Google Workspace for Education. This introductory session offers a hands-on demonstration of Vids, exploring its intuitive, real-time collaborative interface and its key features like customizable templates, media library integration with Drive and Photos, and the built-in recording studio. Bring your device and walk away ready to integrate this dynamic tool into your teaching and learning environment.

Design Smarter, Not Harder: Canva for Teachers - Kristie Hughes, Northern Buckeye

Unlock the power of Canva to simplify your teaching and elevate your classroom materials!

This session will guide you in creating visually engaging lessons, worksheets, projects, and communications that save time and capture students' attention. Discover Canva's intuitive tools, customizable templates, and collaborative features to design resources with ease. You will walk away with a ready-to-use project, template, or idea to bring into your teaching immediately.

K-12 Career Connections - Kristina Lucas & John Hambrick, ESC of Central Ohio and ODEW Career Pathway Support Networks

This session explores how Ohio educators can strengthen career-connected learning by building meaningful K-12, business, and community partnerships that prepare students for future success. Attendees will learn about current career pathway initiatives, middle school career-technical education requirements, workforce trends, and regional economic data shaping educational priorities across Ohio. The presentation highlights resources available through the Central Ohio Educational Service Center and the Career Pathway Support Network, including professional learning opportunities, STEM and computer science initiatives, and strategies for connecting classroom instruction to real-world careers. Through interactive discussions and practical examples, participants will discover tools, partnerships, and innovative approaches that increase student engagement, support career exploration, and create stronger pathways from education to high-demand careers in Ohio's evolving workforce.

AI in the Classroom: Ethics and Responsible Use - Gina Bruce, South Western City Schools

With the emergence of AI as an important part of today's world, there is a swift change happening in the education sector that both provides opportunities for educators and poses some challenges in the teaching process at all stages – from kindergarten through grade 12. In this conversation, we will analyze ways in which AI could be used ethically in the classroom, maintaining integrity, privacy, and equality. Some uses of AI in the classroom context will be considered, AI and education policies will be

discussed, and the proper use of the technology will be taught to our students.

New 3D Printing Technologies and Slicer Features - Paul Post, OTEEA

An opportunity for participants to share what works and questions about technology and engineering education tools with each other.



Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics (OCTM) Annual Fall Conference

The [Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics \(OCTM\)](#) celebrates its 76th anniversary this year with another exciting [annual conference](#). The annual OCTM Conference is taking place October 8-9, at Kalahari Resort in Sandusky, Ohio. This annual gathering brings together mathematics educators from across Ohio to share ideas, discover new approaches, and celebrate the impact of mathematics education.

This year's OCTM conference offers something for everyone, including an Administrator Block featuring sessions designed specifically for building administrators and focused on supporting strong mathematics instruction and student learning.

With engaging speakers, dynamic sessions, and opportunities to connect with colleagues from across the state, the OCTM Annual Conference reflects OCTM's mission to engage, inspire, and empower through mathematics.



Introducing the Ohio Ag-Venture Guide



Explore Agriculture Across the Buckeye State! 🌾

America 250-Ohio is excited to share the Ohio Ag-Venture Guide—your go-to resource for family-friendly farms, delicious local food, and memorable agricultural experiences across the state.

Whether you're exploring corn mazes, picking fresh produce, or learning about Ohio's rich farming heritage, this guide will help you connect with the people & places that feed our communities and power our economy.

What you'll find inside:

- Family-friendly farms: U-pick orchards, pumpkin patches & animal encounters
- Agritourism & fall fun: Corn mazes, seasonal festivals & hayrides
- Local food markets: Farm-to-table spots with fresh Ohio-grown produce



[START YOUR AG-VENTURE](#)



Part of October's Food & Farms Monthly Theme

October is Food & Farms month, celebrating the vital role agriculture has played in shaping Ohio's history, present and future as an agricultural leader. Food & Farms month is made possible by Nationwide and the Ohio Farm Bureau.



ITEEA News

Great Things Are Happening in Your Area. Let's Celebrate Them!

Around the world, technology, engineering and STEM educators are inspiring students, building innovative programs, and making a difference at every grade level.

ITEEA's [Teacher & Program Excellence Awards](#) give every state/province and local affiliate an opportunity to showcase the outstanding work happening in their communities.

From exceptional classroom educators to innovative school programs, these awards celebrate achievements at every grade level and bring well-deserved recognition to the people and schools advancing technology and engineering education.

Help put your state in an international spotlight!

Nominate an outstanding educator or program from your state or province, or apply to showcase your own achievements.

Award recipients will be recognized at the **89th ITEEA Annual Conference in Louisville**, where their accomplishments will be

Technology and Engineering Education News and Resources

Activities, Contests, Student Opportunities, and New Technologies

celebrated alongside educators and leaders.

Nomination Deadline: November 1, 2026

[View Award Opportunities](#)

Innovative Methods To Prepare Students for the Workforce in This Month's STEM Sparks

This article showcases Chesapeake Public Schools' comprehensive approach to workplace readiness, emphasizing that employers increasingly value soft skills such as communication, teamwork, adaptability, and professionalism alongside technical knowledge. Through early career exploration, job shadowing, internships, industry partnerships, and career-planning technology, students gain authentic workplace experiences that connect classroom learning to future careers. The model demonstrates how a coordinated K-12 effort can help prepare students for both graduation and long-term workforce success.

[Learn how to make challenges into educational opportunities.](#)

Registration Is Open for ITEEA's 2027 Conference



Early-Bird pricing available through December 4, 2026.

Join us for the [ITEEA 2027](#) Annual Conference, March 31–April 3, 2027, in Louisville, Kentucky.

Join technology, engineering, and STEM educators from across the country to discover practical ideas, explore what's next for the profession, and connect with a community that understands the work you do.

[REGISTER FOR ITEEA 2027](#)

What You'll Gain at ITEEA 2027

- **Practical ideas** you can bring back to your students and program.
- **Hands-on learning** designed for technology, engineering, STEM, and CTE education.
- **Fresh perspectives** from educators, leaders, and industry partners.
- **Meaningful connections** that continue long after the conference.

Looking for new classroom ideas, ways to strengthen your program, or a community that understands your work? You'll find it in Louisville.

Share What's Working: Apply for the STEM Showcase

Applications are also open for the **ITEEA STEM Showcase**, where educators share best practices, innovative ideas, and hands-on activities in integrative STEM education.

K–12 educators, administrators, college faculty, and informal educators are invited to share a

classroom strategy, activity, invention, program, or teaching approach with fellow educators.

STEM Showcase | Thursday, April 1 | 4:30-5:45 p.m.

Have an idea, activity, or program worth sharing?

[APPLY FOR THE STEM SHOWCASE](#)

We hope you'll join us in Louisville to learn, connect, share what's working, and help shape what's next for technology and engineering education.

Funding Opportunity for Innovative K-12 STEM Programs Opens September 17

Each year, Battelle helps nonprofit organizations launch and grow innovative, informal K-12 STEM education programs for students across Central Ohio. These programs provide engaging learning opportunities outside the classroom and help inspire the next generation of leaders.

New this year: The grant cycle is moving from spring to fall. This updated timing better aligns with organizational planning and program development cycles, giving organizations more time to prepare for the year ahead.

The application **opens September 17, 2026, and closes October 23, 2026.**

This competitive funding opportunity supports nonprofit organizations that are launching, expanding, or enhancing programs that help students build essential skills, connect classroom learning to real-world applications, and prepare for future career opportunities.

Eligible organizations must be tax-exempt under IRS code 501(c)(3) and located in Central Ohio, defined as Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, and Pickaway counties.

[Read more](#)

Stealing Candy From Children, Splash-Proof Urinals and Buried Panties, Oh my! Here Are the Winners of the 2026 Ig Nobel Prizes

The awards are an unaffiliated spoof of the Nobel Prizes. They highlight research achievements that are surprising and silly-sounding—but also make people think

[Read more](#)

The Future of Factory Automation: How AMR/AGVs and Humanoid Robotics Are Transforming Manufacturing & Logistics

Learn how AMRs, AGVs, and humanoid robots are changing manufacturing and logistics operations. Discover key architecture differences, design challenges, and practical solutions. Register today!

October 13, 2026

11:00 AM EDT 1 hour

[Read more](#)

More Than a Recognition: the Value of STEM Designation

What does STEM designation mean for students, educators, and communities? In this new article, Dr. Sarah Redick of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce explores how STEM and STEAM designation serves as a public promise of high-quality, real-world learning. From developing durable skills and fostering meaningful partnerships to creating a culture of innovation and continuous improvement, discover why designation is transforming learning experiences across Ohio schools.

[Read the article](#)

This Old House Manufactured Housing Tours

Modular ADU Factory Tour

Zack tours a Pennsylvania factory to follow a modular Accessory Dwelling Unit from floor framing and rough mechanicals through finishing and shipment, before it is delivered and craned into place in Massachusetts.

[Watch video](#)

Kevin and Tom Tour the House Factory

Tom Silva and Kevin O'Connor kick the tires at the Vermont House Factory

[Watch video](#)

Fall 2026: Tour Ohio Schools and See Innovation in Action



The Ohio STEM Learning Network is excited to announce our fall school tours, a statewide tour of exceptional STEM and STEAM schools hosted by our seven regional hubs.

From early elementary classrooms to high school labs, these tours provide educators, administrators, and community partners with an opportunity to see innovative STEM education in action, explore project-based and hands-on learning, and learn how schools integrate industry partnerships and real-world experiences into their curriculum.

Each school offers a unique lens on STEM education, whether it's integrating creative arts with engineering, building career pathways for high school students, or connecting agricultural education to science and technology. Bring your questions, curiosity, and a desire to rethink how STEM learning can happen in your community.

[Explore the tour schedule here](#) and discover the strengths that make each school a leader in STEM education.

The Kid Should See This

[The Kid Should See This](#)

Smart videos for curious minds of all ages

Here are some selected videos.

- [Pips and Nubs: What are they and how do they work?](#)
- [Why do autumn leaves cause train delays?](#)

Get Ready for Future City: Fire Resilient Future



Register for Future City now to gain access to this year's Theme Webinar on September 30!

You'll also get access to program resources designed to help you and your students get started with this year's challenge.

Explore This Year's Theme with Industry Experts

What does it take to design a community that can prevent, protect, and recover from urban wildfires?

This year's Future City theme, **Fire Resilient Future**, challenges students to explore that question as they imagine and design a fire-resilient city of the future.

At the **Theme Webinar**, educators will get an introduction to this year's challenge and hear from industry experts from UL, Hawaiian DOT, and [Farmers Insurance](#) as they share real-world

perspectives on fire resilience and how communities can prepare for and respond to fire.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear from experts and get your students started on this year's theme! Register for Future City today to gain access to the September 30 Theme Webinar and other program resources.

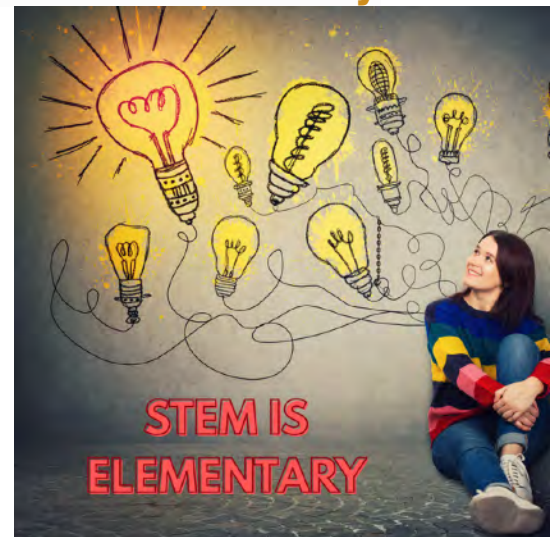
[Register for Future City!](#)

Participate in the "Careers in Your Community" Challenge

The U.S. Department of Education has launched the [Careers in Your Community Challenge](#), inviting high schools to propose solutions that enhance career exploration at their schools. Entries are due by November 19, 2026, at 6 pm ET, and up to 10 winning teams will receive an equal share of the \$50,000 prize pool. CTE teachers are encouraged to review the [challenge details](#), [resources](#), and [evaluation criteria](#), then work with students to identify gaps and opportunities in how their school connects learners with local career, education, and training pathways.

[Subscribe to the CTE Momentum newsletter for updates and reminders.](#)

STEM Is Elementary



The September issue of STEM is Elementary is [available here](#).

Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio Virtual Field Trip

Date: Monday, September 28, 2026

Time: 1-1:45 p.m. Eastern



Join us for a **Virtual Tour of SWACO**, the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio. SWACO serves Franklin County and neighboring areas with solutions for solid waste. They are one of 52 solid waste districts created by the Ohio General Assembly in 1989. These districts were established with the mission of reducing reliance on landfills. On this tour we will not only get to see how solid waste is managed at the landfill but also learn about the many opportunities SWACO has to reduce this waste. We will also hear from multiple employees across SWACO about their role and impact on the community. We hope you will join us!

[Click Here to Register!](#)

Please note all teachers must register separately for your unique link to join. Streaming and viewing instructions are provided upon registration confirmation.

Power Up the New School Year With NEED

As classrooms buzz with new energy, NEED is here to support you with fresh resources, hands-on activities, and timely lessons that connect your students to the world of energy! Curriculum guides are available for free PDF download or viewable as an e-publication and organized by topic and grade level.

2026-2027 RESOURCE CATALOG & PLANNING GUIDE

NATIONAL ENERGY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



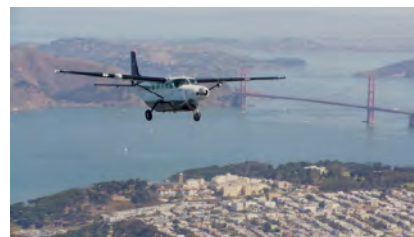
Explore all of NEED's resources in one convenient place with the
NEED Resource Catalog & Planning Guide

[Check It Out!](#)

Autonomous Airplane Completes First Cross-Country Flight

[Popular Science](#)

The retrofitted Cessna handled taxiing, takeoffs, bad weather, and landings without a human pilot.



A human safety pilot flew onboard during the trip, but never needed to assist the flight. Credit: Joby Aviation

A single-engine prop Cessna Caravan has reportedly become the first airplane to autonomously complete a cross-continental flight across the United States. Overseen by the aeronautics company Joby, the retrofitted aircraft began its challenge in Concord, California, on September 7, ultimately traveling 3,199 miles with no assistance from its onboard human safety pilot. However, the plane didn't only fly itself once airborne. [Autonomous programming](#) directed every stage of its multi-stop journey, including taxiing, takeoffs, and landings.

[Read more](#)



ITEEA Connections

This newsletter strives to present content and opportunities that reflect [ITEEA's Standards for Technological and Engineering Literacy \(STEL\)](#). Many resources including crosswalks, compendiums, articles, and presentations can be found at the [STEL](#) site.

This Week's Technology Tips

How to Clean Sanding Belts

[WGOA](#)

Want to get more life out of your sandpaper? If you've been wondering how to clean sanding belts, the good news is, it's easy. All you need is an abrasive cleaning stick. Want to distance yourself a little from the action? No problem. We show you how to make a drum sander cleaning "wand" for just that purpose



Tech Tool of the Month



Padlet is a versatile online collaboration platform that allows educators and students to share ideas, resources, images, videos, and documents in a shared digital workspace. With a free plan available and customizable layouts for brainstorming, discussions, project planning, and student portfolios, Padlet makes it easy to foster creativity, communication, and collaboration across all grade levels and subject areas.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

"We tend to overestimate the effect of a technology in the short run and underestimate the effect in the long run."
— Amara's Law

Early-Bird Registration Open!

Save with Early-Bird Pricing through December 4

ITEEA 2027 Annual Conference
Taking the Reins: Guiding the Future of
Technology and Engineering Education
Louisville, KY
March 31-April 3, 2027



EARLY-BIRD DEADLINE: DECEMBER 4

Register by December 4, 2026 to receive Early-Bird pricing.

Spend four days learning alongside technology, engineering, and STEM educators from across the country. Discover practical ideas, hands-on learning, new connections, and inspiration you can bring back to your students and program.

Why Attend ITEEA 2027?

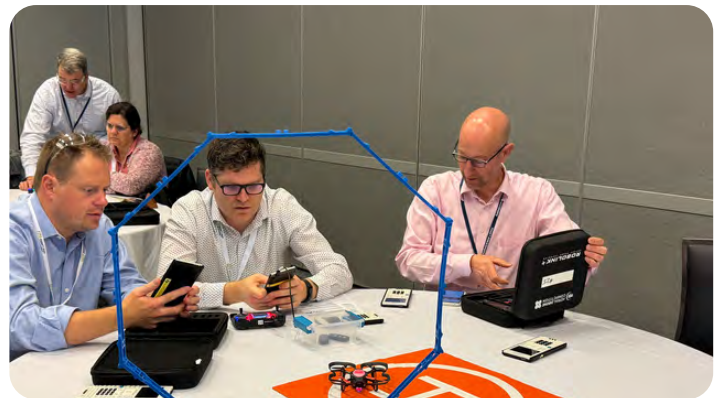
- 100+ hands-on workshops & learning sessions
- Practical ideas you can use right away
- Inspiring keynotes & industry experts
- Connect with educators who understand your work
- Exclusive field trips & experiences

Who Should Attend?

- Technology, engineering & STEM educators
- Administrators & curriculum leaders
- Teacher educators
- Industry and education partners

Join the leaders shaping the future.

Connect, collaborate, and experience what's next in technology and engineering education.



Register for ITEEA 2027
iteea.org/2027

SAVE YOUR SPOT • SAVE WITH EARLY-BIRD PRICING