Announcing a New STEMSS Institute

With a generous grant from Arizona Public Service Foundation, the Arizona Geographic Alliance can again host a summer STEMSS Institute (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and Social Studies).

**What:** The 10-day institute will include:

- STEMSS content information
- Innovations in STEM pedagogy — new technologies and techniques
- Field trips to exciting commercial and educational facilities
- Exemplary Arizona standards-based lessons that teach STEMSS
- Networking with other educators
- Housing (if requested) and stipend for completing all requirements
- Fun

**When:**
- *Spring Orientation* April 30
- *Institute* June 13–16 & June 21–24
- *Lesson presentations* July 16
- *GeoConference* September 17, 2016

**Where:** SkySong ( Rural Road and McDowell Streets), Scottsdale, AZ with field experiences in the area

**Eligibility:** Any Arizona K-12 teacher can apply. Preference will be shown to K-12 teachers who:

- Teach in APS service areas (most of rural AZ and west Phoenix)
- Teach English Language Learners in their classrooms
- Teach at Title I schools
- Come as a team from one school. (2 teachers who will work together)
- Are employed full-time as teachers in the classroom.

Only 24 teachers will be selected to participate so this is your HEADS UP to partner with a colleague and apply. We are looking for enthusiastic, good teachers who wish take a leadership role in their school, district and in AzGA.

**Why Attend?**

Participants who complete all requirements will receive:

- 60 Recertification hours. One to three graduate (ASU) credits can be arranged at participant’s expense.
- A stipend of $300 payable when you have completed the requirements.
- Room and most meals during the event.
- Stipend for travel costs ($40)
- Teaching resources valued at over $300.
- You will be eligible for financial support to attend and present your lesson at state level conferences such as Arizona Council for the Social Studies, Arizona Science Teachers Association, Arizona Teachers of Mathematics, etc.

Here are a few quotes from participants that attended 2013 or 2014 STEMSS Institutes:

- "Woo hoo! Best summer pd ever!"
- "This institute allowed me to better understand how to fully incorporate STEMSS in my lessons and how easy it is with a little more effort."
- "I feel energized being around so many passionate people and gathering so many ideas."
- "As a veteran teacher the STEMSS unit gave me some great ideas on how to combine STEM with history, geography and economics. You will come away with great ways to keep your students engaged with hands-on lessons that will help you teach the standards in your classroom."
Institute Format:

1. The spring meeting is an orientation. (April 30)

2. The summer meetings will be 8 weekday sessions dedicated to content and experiential learning in the areas of Earth and Space Sciences, GeoSpatial Technology, Innovation, Mathematics, and Sustainability among other STEMSS topics. There will be an emphasis on how to communicate what you have learned to others with the intention that you implement and disseminate what you have learned at your school and school district. You will also have time to begin your original STEMSS lesson that will include strategies for teaching English Language Learners.

This is a residential Institute. Your room and most meals will be covered. (If you live in the Phoenix area and do not wish a residential experience, we can accommodate that.) (June 13-16 & June 21-24)

3. The July meeting will be for sharing your original STEMSS lesson with your cohort. (July 16)

4. Participants are required to attend all meetings listed above including GeoConference. (September 17, 2016)

5. Participants are required to conduct at least one workshop in their school district to disseminate ideas, lesson plans, or promote STEMSS.

The STEMSS Institute objectives are:

1. Reach low income and minority children in APS service areas who are underrepresented in STEM fields.
2. Create a cadre of well-trained teachers in APS service areas who are enthusiastic about teaching STEMSS.
3. Assist language learners (through these teachers) to gain more academic knowledge and vocabulary through STEMSS lessons that are adapted for language learners.
4. Create a network of teachers who share what they have learned by training other educators.
5. Produce materials that are based on Arizona standards and provide these materials electronically and free of charge to teachers.
6. Host workshops where teachers can learn about these materials.
7. Have all students learning more STEMSS.
8. Expose teachers in APS service areas to a wide array of STEM professionals who share their passion for their career choice and give advice on how to engage students in seeking such a profession.

Arizona Geographic Alliance
School of Geographic Sciences & Urban Planning
P O Box 875302
Tempe, AZ 85287-5302
480-965-5361 | fax 480-965-8313
azga@asu.edu | http://geoalliance.asu.edu
Is APS your school’s electricity provider? Yes  No (circle one)

Name ___________________________________________ Last ___________ First ___________ Middle Initial ___________

Mailing Address ________________________________________________________________ Street ______________ City __________ Zip __________

Home Phone ________________________________ email ______________________________________________

School Name & Address ________________________________________________________________ Street ______________ City __________ Zip __________

School Phone ________________________________ School District ____________________________________

School email ____________________________________________

What is the ethnic mix of your school? How many English Language Learners do you usually have in your classroom? _____________

__% Asian American __% African American __% Latino/a American __% Native American

Is your school classified as Title I? Yes  No (circle one)

Grades and classes that you teach ________________________________________________________________

Special skills that you bring to the Institute ____________________________________________________________

Topics you hope this Institute addresses ____________________________________________________________

ATTACHMENTS -- Please include the following with this application:

1) Your resume condensed to one page.
2) A one page, typed essay outlining:
   a) Why you believe STEM education is important.
   b) How do you currently teach social studies in your classroom.
   c) How you expect to benefit from participating in the 2016 STEMSS Institute.
   d) And how you will use what you learn in this training with your English language learners.
3) Two letters of reference (these can be mailed or emailed separately):
   a) From your principal, arrange a letter of reference that addresses your skills in the classroom, plus your district’s willingness to facilitate your presentation of at least one staff development workshop in your district. This letter should also include your ability to work with English language learners.
   b) From a colleague, seek a letter that discusses your classroom effectiveness and rapport with fellow educators. We are looking for people who play well with others. Teachers applying from the same school may not write letters for each other.
4) A check for $100 made out to the Arizona Geographic Alliance. This money will be refunded in its entirety
   a) if you cancel in writing by April 16, 2016.
   b) if or if you are not chosen as a participant,
   c) or at completion of the Institute sessions.
5) The completed Application Form.

DEADLINE to apply: April 4, 2016.

Send to: Arizona Geographic Alliance ASU School of Geographical Sciences & Urban Planning P O Box 875302 Tempe, AZ 85287-5302 Or FAX to: 480-965-8313 c/o Gale Ekiss Or email Gale Ekiss at Gale.Ekiss@asu.edu

☑ I agree to participate in all sessions.
☑ I will create and present an original STEMSS lesson (based on Arizona Geography, ELL and Science/Technology/Math standards) in the August session.
☑ I will pilot this original lesson in my classroom and revise it based on feedback.
☑ I will submit my revised lesson for publication to AzGA.
☑ I will train other teachers in my school district based on what I have learned in this institute.
☑ I will be active in the Arizona Geographic Alliance.
☑ I will attend GeoConference on 9/17/2016.
☑ I understand the stipend will be paid when all requirements are met (deadline 12/31/2016)

_____________________________________________ Signature