
CEO message: News, updates, opportunities

1 message

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To: CEO <education.outreach@lists.berkeley.edu>

News and Updates

[Communication, public engagement, broader impacts: What does it all mean?](#) (Center for Advancement of Informal Science Education blog)—Engagement, outreach, education, communication, broader impacts—all of these terms were used in more than 20 sessions related to education and public engagement at the recent [American Association for the Advancement of Science \(AAAS\) Annual Meeting](#). But what did the wide variety of presenters mean when they talked about “public engagement?” Who are “public audiences,” in what ways do researchers and STEM-based professionals interact with them, and what are the impacts for all involved?

[Seven strategies for keeping women in STEM fields](#) (Reuters)—Women who enter science and engineering fields often leave prematurely - and if they stay, many don't advance as quickly as their male counterparts. Now an academic panel has developed a seven-point plan for achieving gender equity in STEM.

[State Snapshots: Select Data on Graduate Education](#) (Council on Graduate Schools)—CGS announces the release of fact sheets with new data on state-level graduate enrollment and degrees statistics. Data are from CGS's annual Graduate Enrollment and Degrees Survey, the federal IPEDS database and NSF's Science and Engineering Indicators State Data Tool.

[New Accountability In California Through Local Control Funding Reforms: The Promise And The Gaps](#) (Education Policy Analysis Archives, March 2015).—California is in the midst of the nation's most significant current overhaul of a state school funding and accountability system. This paper examines the state's recent reforms enacted through the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) against the new accountability framework articulated by Linda Darling-Hammond, Gene Wilhoit, and Linda Pittenger in their August 2014 paper in this publication. There the authors addressed the need for states to align their accountability systems with new college and career-ready learning standards through a focus on [1] meaningful learning, enabled by [2] professionally skilled and committed educators, and supported by [3] adequate and appropriate resources (Darling-Hammond, Wilhoit, & Pittenger, 2014). Many key aspects of LCFF align California with the vision of a new accountability that promises to prepare the state's students with 21st century college and career ready skills; other key building blocks must yet be put in place if California and its students are to realize the promise of the new paradigm.

[A new social science? Statistics outgrowing other STEM fields](#) (TeachThought)—Statistics, the science of learning from data—is the fastest-growing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) undergraduate degree in the United States over the last four years, an analysis of federal government education data conducted by the American Statistical Association (ASA) revealed. Another interesting finding is that more than 45% of undergraduate statistics degrees during the four-year timespan studied were awarded to women. Over the past four decades, women have earned more than 40% of math and statistics bachelor's degrees. For comparison, in 2013, the share of women who graduated with an undergraduate degree in computer science was 18%; in engineering, it was 23%; and, in physics, it was 19%.

[Feds hint at possible college ratings system for consumers](#) (National College Access Network blog)—In an announcement on March 16, an official suggested that the U.S. Department of Education is considering developing two college ratings systems instead of one. The dual ratings system that the Department of Education is reportedly considering would maintain one part focused on informing students and consumers with raw, unadjusted data and the other focused on holding institutions accountable with data adjusted for the populations of students they serve. Such a system would serve as a resource for students across the country who are not being served by access and success programs. College access advocates could use these ratings to promote attendance at high-performing institutions and influence low-performing institutions to take serious steps to improve their work with historically underserved students.

[STEM graduates can't find jobs](#) (US New & World Report)—Credible research about the STEM workforce reveals ample supply, stagnant wages and, by industry accounts, thousands of applicants for any advertised job. The real concern should be about the dim employment prospects for our best STEM graduates. The National Institutes of Health, for example, has developed a program to help new biomedical Ph.D.s find alternative careers in the face of “unattractive” job prospects in the field. Opportunities for engineers vary by the field and economic cycle – as oil exploration has increased, so has demand (and salaries) for petroleum engineers, resulting in a near tripling of petroleum engineering graduates. In contrast, average wages in the IT industry are the same as those that prevailed when Bill Clinton was president.

Opportunities

[Call for makers, inventors & tinkerers](#)—A new cable series highlighting science, art, and ingenuity is looking for inventors, makers, and garage tinkerers. The series will showcase teams of two who will be asked to design and build new and necessary projects that demonstrate talent, creativity, and technical skills. If interested, [email](#) the following info to the producers: 1) Names & ages (of both members of the team), 2) Cities, phone #s, email addresses, 3) Brief description for why your team would be great for this show, 4) Photos both team members, 5) Photos of past creations.

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[Coalition for Education & Outreach \(CEO\)](#) is an informal group of staff, faculty and students on the Berkeley campus who work in education and outreach projects related to science, technology, engineering and math. We meet monthly during the academic year (October-May). Meetings are designed to encourage networking, professional development, and mentoring within the educational and outreach community at Berkeley. [Click here](#) to subscribe or unsubscribe to the [CEO](#) elist.