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## CEO Updates

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

Mon, Aug 17, 2015 at 10:25 AM

**CEO Updates** is a biweekly newsletter designed to inform and engage the UC Berkeley STEM education and outreach (E&O) community and our off-campus partners. *Please scroll to the end of this message for additional information about [CEO](#).*

### CEO news

**Introducing CEO's leadership:** The all-volunteer CEO Steering Committee is CEO's planning and leadership body. Thanks to their efforts, CEO has continued to grow our membership and provide additional services every year since we began in 2010. Members include: **Teresa Barnett, Jenny Mulholland-Beahrs, Gian Bruno, Abigail Garcia, Vipul Gupta, Rachel Henderson, Devin Richards, Michael Sholinbeck, Jenn Weaver, and Marjorie Weingrow.** Learn more about the [members of the Committee and their affiliations](#). The group met in early August to discuss program priorities and plan program improvements based on feedback and ideas submitted by members who responded to the 2105 CEO member survey. View data from the [CEO member survey](#).

**Upcoming CEO events:** The Steering Committee is busy planning an exciting line-up of meetings and socials for this academic year, beginning with **a mixer on Thursday, September 10, 4:30-6:00 pm at Celia's at 1841 Euclid in Northside**. CEO's first meeting of the fall semester will be on **Tuesday, October 13, noon to 1:30 pm at 303 Doe Library, and will feature the UC Berkeley Center for Teaching and Learning**. View the [CEO event and meeting schedule](#).

### Local E&O community events & news

**Fab Lab coming to Richmond**—The West Contra Costa School District (WCCSD) has been chosen by the Fab Foundation as the newest public school system to develop a Fab Lab. Fab Lab Richmond will be based at Kennedy High School and will serve the students at the school as well the WCCSD K-12 community through evening and weekend classes, technical training, and open labs. A Fab Lab is a small-scale workshop equipped with an array of flexible computer-controlled tools and various materials to enable personal digital fabrication and promote true project-based learning. Learn more [here](#).

**Getting Ready for College Conference, 9/26/15, 9am-2pm, Richmond Convention Center, 403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond.** This free conference is open to all 10th, 11th, and 12th graders and their parents throughout the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Students and parents will learn about how to make college a reality by participating in workshops and individual consultations. Register [here](#). *Please disseminate this information widely to your networks in West Contra Costa.*

**Linda Kekelis stepping down as CEO of Techbridge**—Many in the Berkeley E&O community have known and worked with Linda Kekelis and Techbridge for many years. The Techbridge Board of Directors recently announced that Linda will be stepping down as CEO/Executive Director in December, and offered thanks and praise for her outstanding stewardship of the organization. Linda has taken Techbridge from an idea to a national organization that serves thousands of girls through direct services and professional development that builds the capacity of national partners like Girl Scout councils and YMCA of the USA. She has achieved many accomplishments and awards for herself and the organization including the 2015 Most Influential in STEM by the National AfterSchool Association, 2014 East Bay Innovation Award for Education, and 2012 Silicon Valley STEM Innovation Award. Learn more about Techbridge [here](#).

## NSF funding

**Informational Webinar on NSF DR K-12** —The National Science Foundation's **Discovery Research K-12 program** supports projects that develop and study resources, models, and technologies for STEM education (**full proposal deadline: 12/7/15**). Learn more by participating in one of three free webinars: **9/22/15, 1-2pm ET; 9/29/15, 2-3pm ET; 10/6/15, 12:30-1:30pm ET**. [Register here](#).

**NSF Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST)—Full Proposal Deadline 11/13/14**. ITEST promotes PreK-12 student interests and capacities to participate in the STEM and information and communications technology (ICT) workforce of the future. ITEST supports the development, implementation, and selective spread of innovative strategies for engaging students in experiences that: (1) increase student awareness of STEM and ICT careers; (2) motivate students to pursue the education necessary to participate in those careers; and/or (3) provide students with technology-rich experiences that develop their knowledge of related content and skills (including critical thinking skills) needed for entering the STEM workforce. ITEST projects must involve students, and may also include teachers. ITEST supports two project types: Strategies projects and SPrEaD (Successful Project Expansion and Dissemination) projects. Strategies projects support the design, implementation, and testing of innovative educational experiences that support the objectives of the ITEST program. SPrEaD projects support the wider and broader testing and dissemination of promising strategies to generate evidence and greater understanding of contextual factors that operate to enhance, moderate, or constrain anticipated project impacts. All ITEST projects may include activities designed to inform judgments regarding the feasibility of implementing strategies in typical learning environments associated with formal classrooms, out-of-school settings, or combinations of such environments. The ITEST program also invites proposals for an ITEST Resource Center to provide technical assistance to projects and provide assistance with the outreach activities of the ITEST program.

## Broadening participation

**Success factors for women in engineering**—The Engineering Beyond the Double Bind Project, funded by NSF and led by Technical Education Research Centers (TERC) and Eureka Scientific, aims to identify success factors for women of color in engineering. Study organizers are reaching out to women of color who are undergraduates or in their early careers (10 years or less from their terminal degree) via a brief online survey. Interested participants can learn more [here](#). *Please disseminate this announcement widely to your networks.*

**Diversity language added to Energy Bill**—By voice vote, the US Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources approved an amendment to the energy bill making it a Department of Energy priority to provide "education and job training to underrepresented groups, including ethnic minorities, Indian tribes . . . women, veterans, and socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals." The same intent is reflected in several other passages, including one putting the Office of Science in charge of coordinating STEM programs across the department. The office should "seek to increase the participation and advancement of women and underrepresented minorities at every level" of STEM education. Click [here](#) for more information on the bill and to watch committee hearings. Also see related House-passed energy legislation. *ASEE Capitol Shorts, 7/31/15.*

**Our universities: the outrageous reality**—Andrew Delbanco draws from a number of research-based higher education books in this brief history of equal access to colleges and universities. The author details the history of higher education from colonial Virginia to the GI Bill to today, a time when low-income students are both wanting to attend, and wanted by, the nation's best institutions. *Andrew Delbanco, New York Review of Books, 7/9/15.*

**Understanding the underserved learner 2014**—Of the nearly 900,000 students graduating from U.S. high schools in 2014, more than 47% were underserved. The good news is that these students are just as likely as any others to be interested in STEM. This report by the ACT College Readiness Assessment presents findings aimed at understanding the needs of underserved students. *ACT Inc., 2015.*

## **New & noteworthy**

**With new bill, Rep. Smith doubles down on pending NSF legislation**—Representative Lamar Smith (R-TX) has struck again. Just when it looked as if he had reached a truce with opponents in a 2-year battle over legislation—passed this spring by the House of Representatives—that provides guidance to the National Science Foundation (NSF), Smith reintroduced the most contentious portion of that bill as standalone legislation. The new bill repackages Section 106 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015 (H.R. 1806), requiring NSF to tell the public why every award is "in the national interest." It lists seven criteria, including bolstering the nation's economy, improving its scientific workforce, and fostering partnerships with industry. NSF Director France Córdova has said the agency is already doing what the COMPETES bill requires as part of an effort to "enhance transparency and accountability." Research advocates fear that the language in Smith's bills will lead researchers to be more timid in what they propose, out of fear that NSF will reject bolder ideas to avoid invoking the wrath of legislators. And they fear the legislation will embolden legislators to micromanage NSF grantsmaking. *Jeff Mervis, ScienceInsider, 7/31/15.*

**Red flags on the road to ESEA rewrite**—Overhauling No Child Left Behind with a rewrite of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) has been a topic of hot discussion, with two potential versions making their way through Republican leadership. But this article explains why the Senate- and House-backed rewrites may not get far. *Lauren Camera, Education Week, 8/4/15.*

**A list of 180+ ranked schools that don't require ACT or SAT scores for admissions**—Standardized tests prevent many high-achieving, low-income students from applying to prestigious schools. A growing number of U.S. colleges and universities no longer require such tests. *Valerie Strauss, Washington Post, 7/27/15.*

**9 college courses that will have you geeking out and rethinking your major**—Higher education can sometimes perfectly blend the pragmatic and the creative to provide a "top-rate education." Here are nine real college courses that are unconventional, inspiring, and teach impressive skills, and just may have students reconsidering their area of study. *Huffington Post, 8/4/15.*

**How unemployment rates shift choices of majors**—Despite plenty of evidence that liberal arts graduates also have successful careers, undergraduates (and their parents) tend in tough times to encourage majors in business and engineering or other fields that seem to promise employment. A new study by the Institute for the Study of Labor outlines the difference between female and male students, how both groups shy away from the liberal arts, and what each perceives as a practical choice of study. *Scott Jaschik, Inside Higher Ed, 7/7/15.*

**Exposing every student to STEM**—Understanding technology is becoming an expectation within all areas of the workforce; as the workplace continues to evolve, everyone needs the critical-thinking and problem-solving skills that STEM education fosters. In this blog, Mark Elgart shares how STEM education for all, not just those interested in STEM careers, will be key to developing such skills. *Mark Elgart, TechCrunch, 7/29/15.*

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## About CEO

**The Coalition for Education & Outreach** (CEO) is a volunteer-run group of staff, faculty, postdocs, and students who work in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education and outreach on the Berkeley campus and in the surrounding community. Our mission is to further professional development, networking, and information exchange within our community of over 270 subscribers. Membership is free and open to all. [Click here](#) to subscribe or unsubscribe to the CEO e-list and newsletter. Visit the [CEO website](#) for information about CEO's members and programs, or to access past issues of this newsletter. CEO co-chairs [Kate Spohr](#) or [Dan Zevin](#) welcome your comments, questions, and ideas.