

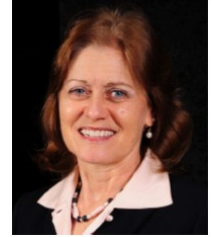
December 2014

## Get Involved!

- Volunteer for the [Crooms Science Fair](#) on January 8th
- [Central Regional Science Olympiad](#) is seeking volunteers in January
- STEMchicks hosts [SciGirls Educator Workshop](#) (a PBS weekly series) on February 7th
- Volunteer for Maitland Middle School's [STEAM Career Awareness Day](#) on February 25th
- Volunteer for upcoming [Classroom STEM Outreach](#) through Florida Engineering

## Message from the Chair

WOW! What an exciting year 2014 has been for STEM Education locally and for the Council! The number of STEM programs and organizations involved has increased significantly. We receive more and more calls and emails from schools and other organizations asking for volunteers, from parents wanting to get their children involved in STEM activities, from companies wanting to participate in encouraging our youth to pursue careers in STEM fields. Attendance and energy at our General Council meetings keeps growing. We have more and more opportunities to partner with other organizations to leverage resources and provide support for our students, teachers and parents. I hope you will step up and get engaged in 2015 through Council membership, attendance at the many exciting events we will be announcing starting in January or volunteering. Happy Holidays and see you in 2015!



**Building a Brighter Future Today!**

- Carol Ann Dykes

## I/ITSEC Recap and Teacher Workshop Recap



Local teachers participating in the Energy Ball Challenge



Carol Ann Dykes and Sherry Reeves staff the I/ITSEC booth

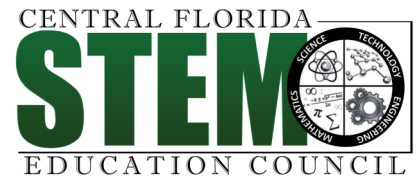
CF STEM participated as an exhibitor in the STEM Pavilion at I/ITSEC (Interservice/ Industry Training, Simulation & Education Conference) for the 5th year in a row. The interest in CF STEM was very high from companies, teachers, students, parents and other STEM organizations in attendance. Look for lots of new faces at upcoming Council meetings! In addition, CF STEM participated for the first time in the Teacher Workshop held each year at I/ITSEC. CF STEM teamed with a number of other organizations as well as Orange County Public Schools and NASA to provide hands-on Projected Based Learning (PBL) professional development for forty-five (45) teachers from five Central Florida Counties (Brevard, Lake, Orange, Seminole and Volusia), including Florida Virtual school. The teachers became "students" for the day. They engaged in teams for 2 NASA engineering design challenges and a series of seven very low-cost PBL activities. The teachers were encouraged by the speakers to reach out to them and the organizations they represent to bring a Scientist or Engineer into their classroom to help with any of the activities shared. The teachers gave raving reviews and are already asking about next year's event!

### ***Special Thanks to the other Teacher Workshop Sponsors:***

**DISTI Corporation, NASA, NTSA, Manufacturers Association of Central Florida, ASCE, National Center for Simulation, Team Orlando, NAWCTSD and PEOSTRI.**



# STEM Connections



December 2014 *(continued)*

## STEM Week Proclamation Announcement at I/ITSEC

The Proclamation of Orange County's STEM Week on December 3rd at I/ITSEC was presented by Orange County Commissioner Pete Clark, representing Mayor Teresa Jacobs, and Deputy Superintendent for Orange County Public Schools Jesus Jara. During the Proclamation, CF STEM was recognized along with Team Orlando, the Orlando Science Center and the National Center for Simulation as local leaders in STEM Education.



"Innovation is part of the push; and the push for STEM takes on an equally important focus, given our area is widely recognized as the nation's center of excellence for modeling, simulation and training" said Benn Aaronson (Team Orlando STEM Advocate). "Our hope is that through these combined efforts we will improve the state of STEM for students."

## Modeling and Simulation Resources

### Featuring Local Organizations:

- [NASA](#) provides teachers and students resources through NASA Education Television, Educator Guides and Exploring Mars 'Extra'
- Visit [Orlando Science Center's](#) Science Park that displays an array of interactive exhibits featuring lights & lasers, sounds & waves, electricity & magnetism and simulation
- [National Center for Simulation](#) is offering an industry accredited certification program in Modeling and Simulation (M&S) for high school (and other) students.
- The [Melrose Center](#) at the Orlando Public Library houses a Simulation Lab to explore the worlds of flight along with construction

## New Members!

**SkyBridge Tactical** joined to better understand and engage in STEM activities supporting students pursuing STEM careers.



## Join the Council!

Membership Application can be found at  
[www.centralfloridaSTEM.org](http://www.centralfloridaSTEM.org)



3259 Progress Drive, Orlando, Florida 32826  
(407) 207-7426 | [info@centralfloridaSTEM.org](mailto:info@centralfloridaSTEM.org)

## Mark Your Calendars!

**CF STEM General Council Meeting**  
**2.20.2014**

**8:30-11:00am, Location TBA**

**Otronicon**

**01.16—01.19.2014**

Orlando's biggest interactive technology  
expo at the Orlando Science Center