



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Dear STEM Educators,

The WWEST Team hopes you had a restful summer and have had a joyful return to classes. We are reaching out to inform you of a few updates and opportunities WWEST has planned for 2026-2027. Due to staffing changes and budget constraints, we have had to make some changes to programming. We are working hard to be able to meet requests, and will be in touch with STEM Curriculum Support Programming successful and waitlisted applicants soon, if not already.

We wanted to also let you know of alternate opportunities offered by WWEST that also provide educators and students with impactful STEM learning.

1. **The WWEST STEM Curriculum Support Program:** The WWEST team is working on scheduling our STEM Curriculum Support Program, based upon the applications received within the application window (June 1-September 4). The demand significantly outweighs capacity, and we are working on scheduling as many classes and teacher supports as possible. We will be reaching out to teachers by Monday, September 21 with tentative schedules, and next steps. Thank you for your patience. If you missed signing up this year, you can still add your name to the waitlist by emailing us (wwest.ok@ubc.ca).
2. **Secondary/Middle Years Scientific Method Pilot:** New this year, WWEST is working with middle/secondary school teachers to support activities and assessments that look beyond the lab report, yet focus on building young scientists and student agency in the existing curriculum. Please reach out if you have questions (wwest.ok@ubc.ca).
3. **UBCO STEM Futures Day:** Save the date, Tuesday, November 10, 2026. New this year, we are offering an opportunity for grades 10-12 to come to campus and experience hands-on STEM learning opportunities. More information will be shared with grade 10-12 teachers soon!
4. **UBCO STEM Engagement Day:** Save the date, Thursday, November 12, 2026 for this extremely popular STEM experiential day at UBCO. Stay tuned for additional information and registration information to be released soon. Available for students/teachers in grades 4-5.
5. **The Okanagan Shuswap Regional STEM Fair:** The 2nd annual STEM Fair is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 9, 2027. WWEST is a significant partner to this event, and will help to support classes looking to develop

projects for the Fair. The STEM fair includes participation from students in Grades 3-12 presenting their own STEM projects for awards/prizes and top projects can qualify for the Canada Wide Science Fair (grades 7-12 only) in Hamilton, Ontario in 2027. Updates and additional details can be found at the OSSTEM Fair website. Please reach out if you would like more information.

6. **STEM Project Incubator:** Please click [on the corresponding WWEST website link](#) for a printable poster (including registration information), to share with your students (grades 6-12). WWEST has partnered with the Okanagan Science Centre to offer students (grades 6-12) a weekly after-school program (October 15-November 26) to support students in designing and starting a STEM project; this is a way to support students that may not have time in their school day to create projects, but still want to participate in the Okanagan Shuswap Regional STEM Fair in April, or simply extend STEM learning skills. The program is offered both in-person and virtually, as some students may not live close enough to attend in-person.
7. **PD Opportunities:** As in previous years, our WWEST education team is delighted to explore individual, small group, or full staff professional development/learning opportunities at your school. If you are interested in a school-based PD offering, please reach out we can collaborate on achieving your goals!

Yours in STEM,

The WWEST STEM Educator Team