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NORWIN SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

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NORWIN STEM EDUCATION SUMMIT ANNOUNCED

Inaugural Event for Westmoreland, Allegheny County Educators Set for Monday, March 12, at Norwin High School

NORTH HUNTINGDON – Norwin School District is hosting its first-ever STEM Education Summit to bring together business and education partners to share ideas and identify new college and career pathways to create advanced educational opportunities that will encourage our students to become an integral part of tomorrow's leading workforce.

STEM is the education acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, and it's a "national call to action" in K-12 education and at colleges and universities designed to increase America's chances of attaining a strong, competitive edge on the international stage.

The NorwinSTEM Summit will be held on Monday, March 12, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to Noon at Norwin High School. It is open to any Westmoreland or Allegheny County teacher or administrator, as well as select business and community leaders by invitation only. Registration is free and is due by February 27, 2012, at www.norwinsd.org/StemSummit.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Lawrence Mussoline, Superintendent of the Downingtown Area School District in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Dr. Mussoline will speak about the Downingtown STEM Academy that opened in fall 2011. The school features a project-based learning environment where students are exposed to the kinds of design and implementation practices that scientists and engineers use regularly.

There will also be a STEM Panel Discussion, facilitated by Mr. Michael Choby, Norwin School District STEM Coordinator, to answer questions and discuss how students can be successful in tomorrow's careers. The panel includes:

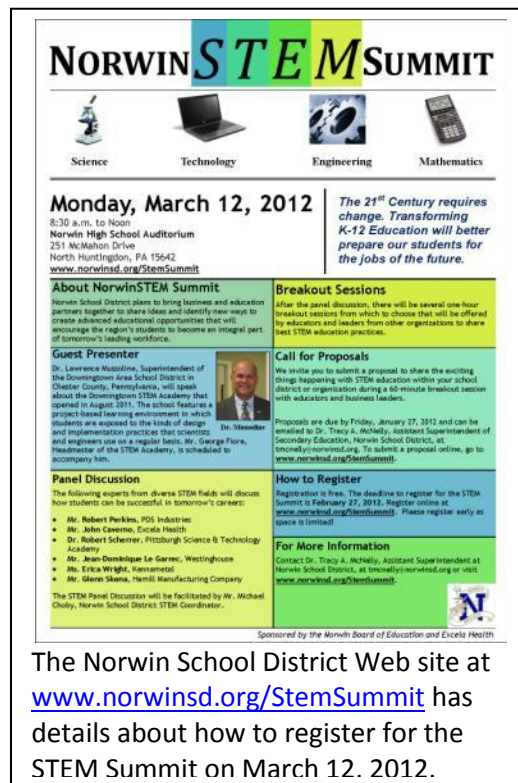
- Mr. John Caverno, Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Chief Human Resources Officer, Excelsa Health
- Mr. Jean-Dominique Le Garrec, Engineering Services Growth, Westinghouse Electric Company
- Mr. Todd Fleming, PDS Industries
- Dr. Robert Scherrer, Principal, Pittsburgh Science & Technology Academy
- Mr. Glenn Skena, Manager, Methods Engineering, Hamill Manufacturing Company
- Ms. Meghan Riley, Kennametal Foundation Coordinator, Kennametal Inc.

There will also be 30-minute and one-hour breakout sessions to share best STEM education practices from around Westmoreland and Allegheny Counties. Educators and STEM organizations are invited to submit proposals to lead these breakout sessions and share the innovative things happening with STEM education within their school district or organization. Proposals are due by Friday, January 27, 2012 and can be emailed to Dr. Tracy A. McNelly, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, Norwin School District at tmcnelly@norwinsd.org. To submit a proposal online, go to www.norwinsd.org/StemSummit. Dr. McNelly is leading the District steering committee that is coordinating the Summit.

The idea for the STEM summit grew out of administrative discussions led by Superintendent William Kerr, who introduced the concept in his annual written report to the Norwin community in August 2011. Dr. Kerr and many educators are keenly aware of the importance of education, workforce quality, and economic development as they relate to preparing Norwin students for the future. For example, the total number of STEM employees predicted to be needed during the next 10 to 15 years is approximately 35,000 to 50,000 in southwestern Pennsylvania alone. This is according to a 2008 report titled *Pennsylvania STEM Initiative and the Southwest PA STEM Network* from The Education Policy and Leadership Center.

This past fall, Dr. Kerr heard Downingtown Area School District's Superintendent, Dr. Lawrence Mussoline, and that district's STEM Academy headmaster, Mr. George Fiore, both speak at the Western Pennsylvania Forum for School Superintendents. "I realized that they would be perfect for the NorwinSTEM Summit," Dr. Kerr said.

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The poster for the NorwinSTEM Summit features the title "NORWINSTEMSUMMIT" at the top, with "STEM" in large, colorful letters. Below the title are icons for Science (a microscope), Technology (a laptop), Engineering (a globe), and Mathematics (a calculator). The event date is "Monday, March 12, 2012" from 8:30 a.m. to Noon at Norwin High School Auditorium. A quote states: "The 21st Century requires change. Transforming K-12 Education will better prepare our students for the jobs of the future." The poster is divided into several sections: "About NorwinSTEM Summit" (Norwin School District plans to bring business and education partners together...), "Breakout Sessions" (After the panel discussion, there will be several one-hour breakout sessions...), "Guest Presenter" (Dr. Lawrence Mussoline, Superintendent of the Downingtown Area School District...), "Call for Proposals" (We invite you to submit a proposal to share the exciting things happening with STEM education...), "Panel Discussion" (The following experts from diverse STEM fields will discuss how students can be successful in tomorrow's careers...), "How to Register" (Registration is free. The deadline to register for the STEM Summit is February 27, 2012...), and "For More Information" (Contact Dr. Tracy A. McNelly, Assistant Superintendent at Norwin School District...).

The Norwin School District Web site at www.norwinsd.org/StemSummit has details about how to register for the STEM Summit on March 12, 2012.