ITEEA Launches “Re-engineered” Website!
After much anticipation and countless hours of effort by many, the new ITEEA website launched in early January. The Press Release can be viewed by clicking Here. We have received a great deal of positive feedback about the greatly improved look and functionality – through IdeaGarden comments and direct emails. The advent of the new website allows much more of our content to be “discoverable” on the Internet and we regularly see our content appearing as part of Google alerts on the topics of “STEM” and “technology education.” We are actively seeking feedback for ways to improve the website and have launched a “Report Issues” form in the “About” section at the bottom of the opening webpage. We are looking forward to growing the website to embrace our members’ needs and to showcase our profession. This new tool provides us a viable foundation to build on for a strong future.

WE NEED YOU TO MAKE IT HAPPEN! If you haven’t already, spend some time exploring all that the re-engineered website has to offer at www.iteea.org. And tell your colleagues to try it as well!

ITEEA Safety Publication Highlighted by NSTA
In a recent issue of its high school teacher journal (The Science Teacher), NSTA “recommended” ITEEA’s Safer Learning Environments for Integrative STEM Education publication. Among other comments, the reviewer shares, “the information presented is exceptionally well organized and incredibly useful for new teachers or teachers who have not been in the lab or shop for a while. Every department office, lab, and shop space should have a copy of this book to use as a handy reference.” The publication was recently completely overhauled by ITEEA member Tyler Love and NSTA safety expert, Kenneth Roy. Click Here to read the full review.

ITEEA Launches “Veterans Make Great Technology and Engineering/STEM Teachers” Scholarship
In early March ITEEA announced a new scholarship, “Veterans Make Great Technology and Engineering/STEM Teachers.” This scholarship is available to all veterans who are currently enrolled as university students transitioning to careers as Technology and Engineering teachers. The intent of the scholarship is to recognize those who have served our country and are now committed to serving/teaching its students. Funding for this program is open to all interested parties including corporations, colleges, and universities, as well as individuals. Applicants will apply online through August 1, and awardees will be notified by September 19, 2016. The ITEEA website has been updated with more information regarding eligibility and the application process. Click here for more information.

“Learning Better by Doing” Project: Update
ITEEA’s “Learning Better by Doing Project began its work in 2013 and is preparing to enter “Phase 4” of its work. Instruments were created based on Standards for Technological Literacy, Next Generation Science Standards, and Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. The instruments were beta tested by elementary, middle, and high school science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teachers in the United States. Based on the feedback, the instruments were refined and the first round was conducted in March and April of 2014. Emails were sent to over 30,000 elementary, middle, and high school science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teachers requesting that they participate in this round of the study.

International Technology and Engineering Educators Association

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The OITEEA Headliner
The Most Recent and Pertinent News and Information for the Technology and Engineering Education Field

Volume 2, #3 / May 2016
The “Round 4 Survey” is scheduled to open during summer/fall of 2016 timeframe. The Round 4 survey will remain open until April 1st, 2017. The final data will be compiled and published in TET in early fall 2017. The research team will present the Round 4 and final study results at the 2018 ITEEA Atlanta Conference along with other STEM education events. For more information about the Learn Better by Doing Research, please go to our webpage link: Learning Better By Doing Project.

WE NEED YOU TO MAKE IT HAPPEN! Learn more about the Project, take the survey (it’s important to participate in as many rounds as possible), and encourage other educators to participate.

Outstanding STEM Trade Books Opportunity with NSTA
Following its “Outstanding Science Trade Books” model, NSTA will be creating a new program with a list focusing on STEM trade books. With NSTA Past President Julianna Texley as lead, ITEEA has been invited to join the effort by putting forth representatives for the development and review committee. Several candidates met with the NSTA representative at the ITEEA conference in DC. Further meetings are planned to keep the project moving forward, including one devoted to the STEM trade books development committee to establish the criteria and rating rubric for the committee to use this coming year. The current description of the project is: “STEM is an integrated and creative approach to discovering and applying knowledge about our world to solve problems. Trade books that provide background and model the practices of STEM provide context and inspiration to readers. Recognizing the best publications in this field can help guide their use and provide direction to publishers.”

ITEEA Collaborates with ASEE
ITEEA began building on its positive relationships with several like-minded STEM associations such as TSA, NSTA, ASEE, NCTM, and others, a few years ago. This year, ITEEA and ASEE (American Society for Engineering Education) staff members met to find additional ways to collaborate. A few outcomes from this meeting have come to fruition with ITEEA having provided a booth for ASEE at the 2016 DC conference. ASEE will respond in kind for ITEEA at its 2016 conference in June. ITEEA will also be identified on ASEE promotional preconference and onsite conference signage as a partner, with a hot-linked company logo in the sponsors’ section of the annual conference website, full-page color ad in an upcoming issue of Prism magazine (Summer issue), full-page color ad in the conference program, Advertorial (button ad and text) in all four issues of the pre-conference newsletter, and a button ad in ASEE’s Conference Connections daily newsletter and blog running during the conference. ITEEA is working with ASEE to provide a reciprocal set of benefits as well. We are very pleased with this collaboration with ASEE and hope it will generate more awareness and opportunities for both associations.

IdeaGarden Update
With the launch of the new ITEEA website in January comes an improved format for the Members-Only IdeaGarden forum. All ITEEA Members can join the conversation on IdeaGarden just by clicking the “Join Group” button. IdeaGarden posts are archived online forever and always available to members. You can “follow” those who interest you. You will receive email notifications when a new post is available. Once a year the Gardeners have the opportunity to meet face-to-face at their own session at ITEEA’s annual conference. We strongly encourage all members to jump in and see what kind of new ideas are growing this year.

WE NEED YOU TO MAKE IT HAPPEN! The new “forum” format offers some great new features, but also brings with it a small learning curve. Commit to logging in and learning your way around! And then share your great ideas with your colleagues.

Social Media Update
ITEEA has given its social media presence a “facelift” by updating its profile and cover photos for both Facebook and Twitter. We have also taken advantage of a new Facebook feature that allows a direct link from our page to our website via a “Learn More” button. If you don’t already follow ITEEA on Twitter and Facebook, we encourage you to do so!
ITEEA MEMBERSHIP

ITEEA is always on the lookout for new members to join us. We need YOU to make it happen! Please direct anyone who is interested to the Membership area of the ITEEA website at www.iteea.org.

ITEEA Partners with Society for American Military Engineers
ITEEA has established a new partnership with the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) that has helped to add 25 DC Elementary Schools to its growing Elementary School I-STEM Education memberships. ITEEA’s Executive Director met with Maya Garcia, Director, Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (DC). Ms. Garcia shared that, in 2014, DC rolled out a STEM Education plan for the DC Public Schools. She identified that there are approximately (25) schools within the District whose school resources are more limited than other schools in the District. The timing was ideal to sponsor the DC schools. The success of this implementation will serve as a model to build upon with the ultimate goal of additional SAME chapters throughout the country sponsoring within their respective school districts. SAME has also demonstrated support as an institutional member and was instrumental in providing students for the Color Guard ceremony at the 2016 conference.

ITEEA Member Tyler Love Named to NSTA’s Science Safety Advisory Board
Last month ITEEA member Dr. Tyler Love was named to the National Science Teachers Association’s (NSTA) Science Safety Advisory Board. Dr. Love will begin his three-year term as part of the ten-member board on June 1. The Board advises the NSTA staff, executive director and officers, in addition to science and STEM teachers, on better professional safety practices and legal safety standards as they apply to K-16 curriculum and instruction. Its activities include writing white safety papers, working on NSTA position statements, helping develop safety alerts and managing the NSTA Safety Portal, in addition to other safety related initiatives. Dr. Ken Roy, NSTA Chief Science Safety Compliance Expert, who oversees the operation of the Board noted NSTA is very fortunate to have Dr. Love given his expertise in STEM safety. Dr. Love is coordinator and assistant professor of Technology and Engineering Education at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore. He has worked tirelessly to raise awareness of safer practices in technology and engineering classrooms and laboratories. In addition to a number of articles, he co-authored, with Dr. Roy, a 2014 rewrite of ITEEA’s safety document, Designing Safer Learning Environments for Integrative STEM Education.

New Corporate Member: National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists
ITEEA recently added The National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists as a new corporate member. The Academy provides ongoing support and inspiration to high-achieving students who wish to devote their lives to the sciences and technology. The Academy seeks to help these students acquire the necessary experience and skills to be successful in high school, the college application process, and beyond as they pursue careers in the STEM fields.

ITEEA PUBLICATIONS

Technology and Engineering Teacher to Add Ongoing Safety Feature
Beginning with the September 2016 issue, ITEEA’s Technology and Engineering Teacher will introduce a new feature titled, “Safety Spotlight,” which will be overseen by Dr. Tyler Love. The feature will focus on key safety topics for K-12 educators, and will provide all of our members with regularly featured Integrative STEM Education safety related topics to learn from and use/share with their colleagues!
ITEEA’s *STEM Connections* Newsletter Gets a Makeover
As part of ITEEA’s more highly functional website, the *STEM Connections* electronic newsletter is now produced in an interactive format. Subscribers now receive the newsletter in a clean online format that allows the viewing of article topics—and the ability to choose how much, or how little, of each article to read.

OUTREACH INITIATIVES

ITEEA a Program Partner for NSTA STEM Forum & Expo
ITEEA is pleased to be a Program Partner for the 5th Annual STEM Forum & Expo, hosted by the National Science Teachers Association. This unique event will focus on bringing together (informal and formal) educators, administrators, and representatives from exhibiting companies who have tools and resources to share that will ensure successful implementation of STEM education into our schools and communities. The STEM Forum and Expo is schedule for July 27-29, 2016 at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, CO.

ITEEA Sponsors International Conference in Thailand
As STEM Education grows around the world, the ITEEA is a sponsor of the International Science, Mathematics and Technology Education Conference (ISMTEC) that will be held October 19-22, 2016 in Bangkok Thailand. For more information on attending or participating in this conference, see: [http://ismtec2016.ipst.ac.th/](http://ismtec2016.ipst.ac.th/)

The International Science, Mathematics and Technology Education Conference (ISMTEC) 2016, is the third ISMTEC to be held, again in Bangkok. ISMTEC 2016 will draw K-12 teachers, administrators, consultants and specialists, university educators and STEM education researchers from the 10 ASEAN countries (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and from many other countries around the world. General Registration is free and a small fee will be charged for the “hands-on” workshops.

ISMTEC 2016 is being planned and hosted by the Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology (IPST). The IPST is an independent authority under the Ministry of Education (MOE), responsible for the development of national curriculum, educational media and tools, standard and quality assessment on science, mathematics and technology education from elementary to upper secondary schools. IPST is also tasked with re-training teachers and students, promoting science talents and advising science education policy.

IPST works closely with a wide range of stakeholders including government education authorities, teachers, principals, students, community and general public to ensure the comprehensive, efficient and sustainable science learning and teaching, and cultivate the scientific thinking culture in our children.

Conference Outreach Efforts
ITEEA provided membership opportunity materials and/or representation at the following conferences:

- Virginia Children’s Engineering Conference
- Wisconsin Technology Education Association
- United States Fab Lab Network
- National Science Teachers Association
- Delaware Technology Student Association
- U.S Science and Engineering Festival
- New York State Technology and Engineering Education Association
- Authorized TEC Institute
- National School Boards Association
ITEEA’s STEM Center for Teaching and Learning Integrative STEM FocalPoints™
Earlier this year, ITEEA launched the first draft of the I-STEM Education Focal Points Executive Summary. In addition to having the document available at the ITEEA DC conference, it was also shared at the School Superintendents Association (AASA) and the National School Boards Association (NSBA) annual conferences. In addition to having the document available, STEM CTL staff presented “I-STEM FOCALPOINTS: CONNECTING THE STEM DOTS!” The presentation description included: “Everyone has a definition of STEM. But what really is Integrative STEM? Connecting the STEM Dots through FocalPoints is a way to achieve true Integrative STEM in the classroom. Visualize how CCSS (Math & ELA), NGSS, Standards for Technological Literacy and the National Academy of Engineering’s Engineering Habits of Mind connect the STEM Dots in classrooms. See what FocalPoints are, how they are used in a backwards design model, and how they can be implemented in schools. Experts from the ITEEA’s STEM Center for Teaching and Learning will provide an overview of this Integrative STEM innovation—and the “how-to” of connecting the STEM Dots!” This initiative will enable ITEEA to better support Technology and Engineering Education by taking a lead role through the Integrative STEM Education approach.”