



Feb. 2021 | Vol. 4



STEAM NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF
INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY (DOIT) STEAM EDUCATION GROUP



$$2 + 5 = 7$$



Back at Headquarters

Celebrating Black History Month

The February edition of the STEAM newsletter is dedicated to showcasing the accomplishments in STEAM fields that have been made through Black History and offering resources to teach and learn about Black History with STEAM activities and lessons.

This newsletter has been curated in collaboration with Ruth Adekale, Illini Science Policy Scholar, working with the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation and Representative Camille Lilly.

Let off some STEAM with these fun activities!

K-4

- **CREATE | BLACK HISTORY + MATH | LIFESIZE TIMELINE**

5-8

- **MAKE | LEARN ABOUT ALICIA BOLER DAVIS + DESIGN A ROBOT**

9-12

- **WATCH | "THROUGH THE WINDOW AND INTO THE MIRROR: NARRATIVES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STEM PROFESSIONALS"**

Educator's Corner

STEAM resources for in-person, hybrid, + remote learning, and professional development

- **"Racial microaggressions contribute to disparities in STEM education" (UIUC College of ACES research article)**
 - **African Americans in Science and Technology | Links from the Library of Congress.**
 - **Black History Month Lessons & Resources from the National Education Association**
 - **5 STEM Lessons to Celebrate Black History Month from Scholastic**
-

News & Events

Illinois Black Caucus backs HB 2170 | K-12 Education reform bill



Credit: Blueroomstream.com

On Jan. 11, 2021, HB2170 passed the Illinois General Assembly and currently awaits the Governor's signature. [Read the bill here](#) and [Learn more about the bill here](#).

[African Americans in STEM Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon](#) | [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#)

Week 1 (February 21, 2021 – February 27, 2021) | Week 2 (February 28, 2021 – March 6, 2021)

"Join the National Museum of African American History and Culture and blackcomputeHER.org as we celebrate National Engineering Week and Women's History Month with the African Americans in STEM Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon. Participants will create and edit Wikipedia pages for African American STEM professionals highlighting the impacts on their communities, nation, and the world. The creation and editing of Wikipedia pages will benefit K-12 students and teachers by sharing the narratives of African American STEM professionals, both the past and present. This event is presented with support from Wikimedia DC, the regional outreach organization for Wikipedia and the other projects of the Wikimedia Foundation."



Chicago Children's Choir Black History Month Virtual Concert

Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021 | 7:00 pm CST Livestream

"Black History Month Virtual Concert: Preserving and Persevering explores how the power of Black music has been the cultural key in both preserving African traditions in America and in helping millions persevere in the face of racial injustice. The dynamic virtual educational program features powerful performances by CCC singers and GRAMMY Award-winning guest artists Lisa Fischer and Ranky Tanky following a behind-the-scenes pre-show of the educational experience leading up to the virtual event."



Black History Month Virtual Concert

Chicago Children's Choir / Lisa Salazar

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum | No Malice Film Contest

Events throughout February and March | Entry deadline April 30, 2021

"The No Malice Film Contest creates a platform for Illinois youth and young adults, ages 11-21, to explore the topic of racial healing using the medium of film. We believe youth and young adults have the capacity and desire to use their words and actions to promote fairness, heal the wounds within their communities, and participate in social change for the benefit of all. The No Malice Film Contest encourages you to take a creative and thoughtful approach to these aspirations through the creation of short films."



Ongoing News & Events

The New York Times STEM Writing Contest | January 19 - March 2, 2021



"For this contest, The Learning Network invites you to bring that same spirit of inquiry and discovery to finding a STEM-related question, concept or issue you're interested in, and, in 500 words or fewer, explaining it to a general audience in a way that not only helps us understand, but also engages us and makes us see why it's important."

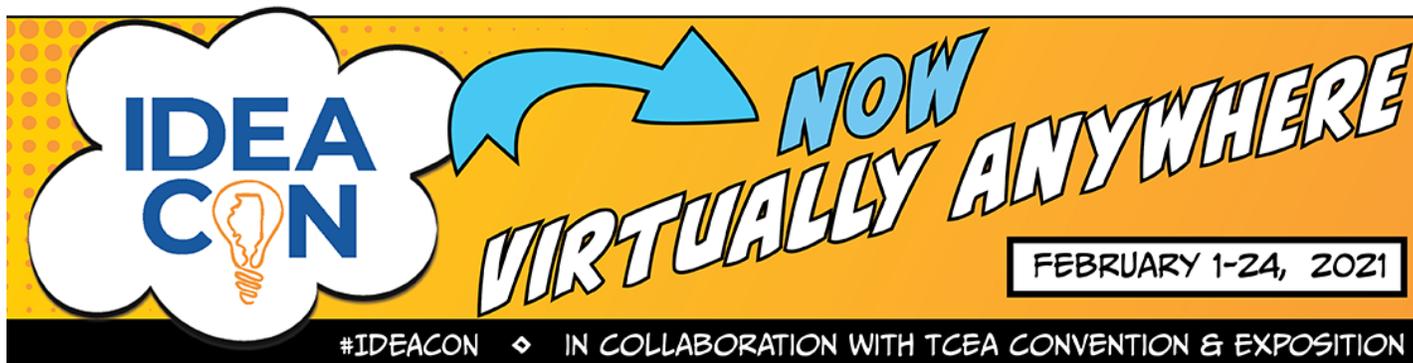
CyberStart America Competition is Now Open For Registration Through March

"CyberStart America, the sequel to Girls Go CyberStart which premiered last year, is a national program of online challenges that allow high school students to act as cyber protection agents, solving cybersecurity-related puzzles and exploring related topics such as code breaking, programming, networking, and digital forensics. 381 students from Illinois high schools participated in 2019 with 45 making it to the national finals. A national program offered free of charge, CyberStart America could open doors for job opportunities and even scholarships. Spread the word among your High School friends and family" [Click here to register.](#)



Register for IDEAcon, happening virtually Feb 1- 24, 2021

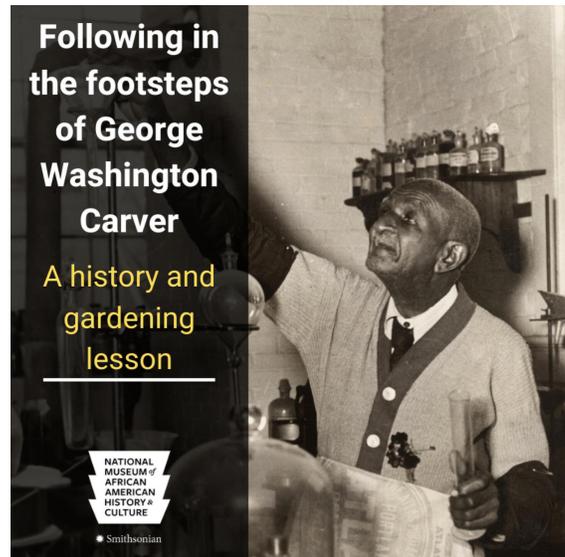
"IDEAcon is a teaching and learning conference that attracts educators, educational leaders, and pre-service teachers from PreK - Higher Ed. The conference engages educators from across the Midwest in an exploration of pedagogical strategies and resources connected to instructional technology. Districts, schools, classrooms, and libraries will all gain valuable insights at one of the Midwest's largest educational technology conferences. This year, IDEAcon is excited to team up with TCEA's Convention & Exposition this February to provide expanded virtual learning opportunities and new ways for educators to grow their professional learning networks."



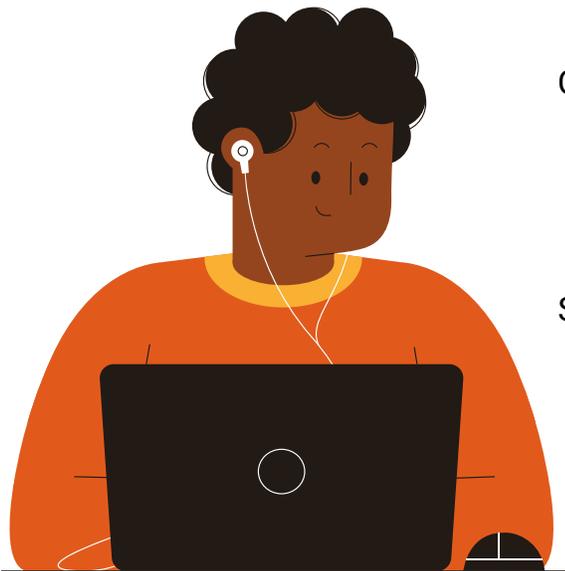
STEAM Resource Spotlight

National Museum of African American History and Culture Learning Lab for STEM Ingenuity

"Educators at the National Museum of African American History and Culture are working to put a new face on STEM education. African Americans have contributed to STEM enterprises since the nation's beginning, yet their names and contributions have been routinely overlooked. The NMAAHC's STEM Education initiative highlights stories of challenge and triumph while exploring the principles, practices, and societal impacts behind the amazing achievements of African Americans to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math."



Google HBCU Career Readiness Program with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund



"The Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) in partnership with Google, is proud to present the Grow with Google Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Career Readiness Program. As part of Google's commitment to supporting Black jobseekers, the program partners with HBCU career services centers across the United States to help Black college students develop the digital skills they need to find and secure internships and jobs that will help them build successful careers. To support the program, Google has committed more than \$1 million to HBCU career service centers nationwide to be distributed by TMCF."

The 'A' in STEAM

This series is dedicated to showing how art and creativity play a crucial role in our society on its own and even within the STEM fields. There's a great deal of artistry that goes into our favorite products and media we consume that make our lives easier, or at least a bit more enjoyable, and teaches us valuable lessons about history. Art and music have been powerful resources and means for innovation and platforms throughout Black History. These resources simply scrape the surface of what we can learn about Art and Black History.

"CONTEMPORARY BLACK COMPOSERS YOU SHOULD KNOW"

ARTICLE BY CPR CLASSICAL

EXPLORE THE ARCHIVES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC AND CULTURE

AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY



AMBULANCE CALL

JACOB LAWRENCE 1948

FROM THE COLLECTION OF CRYSTAL BRIDGES MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART



COMPOSER JONATHAN BAILEY
HOLLAND PHOTOGRAPHED BY
ROBERT TORRES

BLACK HISTORY AND CULTURE

EXPLORE THE HISTORY, ARTS, AND CULTURE OF BLACK EXPERIENCE IN THE UNITED STATES

BY GOOGLE ARTS AND CULTURE



www.illinois.gov/doiit-steam

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Please submit STEAM ideas, comments, questions, or suggestions using our [contact us form](#).

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