Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year!

We are excited about the opportunities for STEM Education Research in 2016. For example, this week many of our colleagues are participating in the Association for Science Teacher Education conference. Dr. Julie Brown will presenting a session titled: *Detailing Teachers’ Pedagogical Decisions when Designing Culturally Responsive Science Instruction* and STEM Education Center Graduate Research Assistants Beth Crotty, Aran Glancy, and Elizabeth Ring will be co-presenting a paper titled: *Conceptualizing STEM Integration Units that Correlate to Student Achievement Gains with Engineering* with fellow colleagues Tamara Moore and Selcen Guzey from Purdue. Dr. Gillian Roehrig is a senior board member on the executive committee who will be involved in many leadership meetings during the conference as well as presenting a session called *Coaching Partnership with Science Teachers: Support for the Implementation of STEM Integrated Curriculum* with STEM Graduate Research Assistant Tasneem Anwar.

The STEM Education Research Center is one of over 100 Centers participating in a project, entitled "Creating and Studying a National Network of Centers of STEM Education: Developing Foundational Infrastructure for Educational Transformation," under the direction of Kacy Redd, Bruce E. Goldstein, Gabriela C. Weaver, Noah D. Finkelstein. The project builds on two years of efforts which was made possible by a seed grant by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and support from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. The project leaders are very excited about the next steps of this project, which will build on our existing community, provide funding for national conferences, workshops, the development of toolkits and resources for centers, a robust online infrastructure, research studies on the nature of centers and how this network is formed, as well as seed funding for cross-institutional work and community-determined projects. The center profiles are available at SERC: [http://serc.carleton.edu/StemEdCenters/profiles.html](http://serc.carleton.edu/StemEdCenters/profiles.html). Contact Karl if you’d like to learn more about this project.

Our first STEM Center seminar for the 2015-2016 academic year is scheduled for January 29, 2016 from 11:30 – 1:00 in room 139A Learning & Environmental Sciences Building. We look forward to hearing from Sarah Carter and Laura Beukema from Twin Cities Public Television. Their talk is called: *The SciGirls Seven: A Transmedia Approach to Engaging Girls in STEM*. Read more about their presentation and RSVP to attend on our website at [http://www.cehd.umn.edu/stem/Events/STEMSeminarSeries.html](http://www.cehd.umn.edu/stem/Events/STEMSeminarSeries.html).

Congratulations to our Colleagues Drs. Julie Brown and Gill Roehrig, and Minneapolis Public School Colleagues, Betsy Stretch and Char Ellingson, for their funding from the Cargill Foundation.

We look forward to following, encouraging, and celebrating STEM Education Research in 2016.

Best wishes,

Kathy & Karl