Dear STEM Education Center Colleagues and Friends,

Last week’s snowfall reminds us that we are still experiencing winter even though we are entering the fourth week of our spring semester.

Our most recent STEM Center seminar for the 2015-2016 academic year was on January 29, 2016 from 11:30 – 1:00. Sarah Carter and Laura Beukema from Twin Cities Public Television along with Barbara Billington from the STEM Education Center shared their work on TPT award winning SciGirls television program. Their talk was called: The SciGirls Seven: A Transmedia Approach to Engaging Girls in STEM. Seven strategies for engaging girls in STEM were shared. We watched examples of the SciGirls program to see how these strategies are implemented in this program. You can find the resources from the talk at cehd.umn.edu/stem/Events/STEMSeminarSeries. We were pleased to see that many of those who attended the seminar were from outside the STEM Center. We will continue to work to share important information about the STEM education research with the larger community.

On a personal note, it is with mixed feelings that we announce that our exceptional communications coordinator, Kelly Auxier, is moving on to a full time position as Communications Specialist at the Food Protection and Defense Institute at the University of Minnesota. On one hand, as with our PhD graduates, we celebrate her advancement and departure; however, on the other hand, we will miss her. Kelly’s initiative and commitment to STEM Center communications has refined our identity and has widely spread our mission, vision, and, especially, featured the people at the Center. We would like to acknowledge the wonderful support she has given to the STEM Center. Her work on our website, the monthly newsletter, and social media along with her wonderful colleagueship has made a huge difference in sharing the work at the STEM Center with others in the community. The faculty, staff and graduate students at the STEM Center will miss her.

As spring approaches (less than two months to the Vernal Equinox), we continue to work to foster an excellent and supportive research climate that is based on excellent communications and collaboration, and to continue to develop research collaborations within and beyond the University of Minnesota. We wish you a renewing and productive spring semester. Best wishes,

Karl Smith & Kathy Cramer