Diversifying Tech Starts with Ensuring Equitable Computer Science Education
The tech sector plays a major role in the nation's economy. Yet, opportunities for underrepresented populations remain an issue. Read the full article here.

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Study Finds that Girls' and Boys' Brains are Similar in Terms of Math Development
The findings seem to negate the previously held notion that boys are innately better in math than girls. Read more.

The 2019 Engineering Gift Guide
Each year, Purdue's INSPIRE Research Institute lab evaluates toys, games and books that engage girls and boys in engineering thinking and design. Listen to this podcast to learn more.

2019 STEM Talent Index – Illinois' Computing Talent in Focus
Despite declining total college enrollment since 2013, Illinois produced more STEM degrees in 2018 than ever before and is a leading producer of computer science graduates. Read the report summary.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

#ILSciCom - 3:30-4:30 p.m. Dec. 11
#ILSciCom events are free, virtual sessions that build a professional learning network of science educators. Angela Box, SIU Carbondale will discuss updates for the 2020 Illinois Science Assessment and plans for the future of the test. Registration information now available.

Last Call for Presidential STEM Mentoring Award Nominations
Nominations and applications are now open for the 2019-20 cycle of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM). Nominations are due December 15; applications are due January 15, 2020.

ICTM Teaching Awards
The Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) is seeking 2020 nominations for a variety of teaching awards. Visit ICTM's Awards webpage for nomination information.

Illinois Future City Competition - January 18, 2020
There is still time for sixth-eighth grade teams to register for this competition. The theme is "Clean Water: Tap Into Tomorrow." Teams will choose a threat to their city's water supply and design a resilient system to maintain a reliable supply of clean drinking water.

What is Mathematical Modeling? What Does it Matter? April 9, 2020, 3:30-4:30 pm (CST)
What is the standards' vision for mathematical modeling? How can you enhance the modeling work for students in grades K-5, 6-8, and 9-12? These questions and more will be explored in this session. Register here.

Resources

Celebrate Computer Science Education Week with CodeSciGirls!
A new Season of SciGirls premieres December 12 during Computer Science Education Week! Learn about the new season by attending the December 11 webinar, which runs from 11 am to 12 pm, Pacific Time. Register here for the December 11 webinar. Instructions will be emailed after registering for the webinar. Questions? Contact Casi Herrera, cherrera@ngcproject.org.

Learning Technology Center of Illinois Newsletter
Are you still looking for ways to focus on coding? Use the resources in this newsletter. Thanks to Nicole Zumpano, Chicagoland Regional Educational Technology Coordinator, Learning Technology Center of Illinois, for this resource guide as well. These are resources that you will want to keep handy throughout the year.

Applications Accepted for Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge through January 15, 2020
The Challenge offers middle and high school teachers to win a school science lab makeover. Learn more.