



hosted by

ROSE-HULMAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

September 2014
Volume 4, Issue 9

Newsletter

Special Interest Articles

- PRISM Employment Opportunity

Individual Highlights

- Yacapaca!
- NEON Network
- Start the Year Right With 3 Free Tech Tools for High School Teachers
- Science 360 for iPad
- Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy

PRISM Employment Opportunity

Interactive Web Applications Programmer for PRISM

Responsibilities: Works as part of PRISM, a web resource center for 6th-12th grade school teachers of science, mathematics, and technology interested in integrating web-based materials into their curricula; works within a team of four to design, implement and maintain this web-delivered portal; PRISM features a database of resources and free access to Moodle (a learning management system).

Qualifications: Associate's or Bachelor's degree in appropriate technical discipline preferred; minimum of two years' experience preferred, will consider extensive record of success in lieu of degree. Strong programming skills in database, information sharing, and interactive websites; experience with PHP, JavaScript, CSS, and HTML required, as well as experience in Object Oriented and Procedural approaches to coding; knowledge of AJAX, MySQL (or similar complex database software), and jQuery a plus; ability to assist with image work using Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign also desirable; excellent communication skills (written and spoken); ability to work with the user-community; some knowledge of digital technologies in the classroom; and willingness to learn as the position progresses.

Salary: Commensurate with experience and qualifications; excellent benefits package offered for this full-time position.

Applications: Only online applications/resumes will be accepted at: <https://jobs.rose-hulman.edu> until position is filled. Contact Human Resources at 812-877-8176 for questions. EEO/AA

YACAPACA!

A RESOURCE OF FREE ALREADY MADE QUIZZES

by: Med Kharbach

Educational Technology and Mobile Learning



Yacapaca is a great web tool for educators. It allows teachers to have access to a plethora of already made quizzes. They can also make their own using the provided tools there. I have just discovered this awesome website today and I think it is really worth reviewing here in Educational Technology and Mobile Learning.

Yacapaca is absolutely free and does not require any software download or installation. You just need to register with them using your email address. As you head over to the Yacapaca main page, you will find two big buttons one says 'I am a teacher' and the other 'I am a student'. For students to log in they need an access key from their teachers. Once logged in you can choose your country (it does not support all countries) and a list of categories will be displayed. For instance for Canada , I have Maths (95 quizzes and courses), History (74), Geography (67), Design and Technology (87)...etc.

Some features of Yacapaca

- It is easy to use.
- It is free.
- It is fast and secure.
- It provides quizzes and surveys.
- It lets you discover, modify, and share assessments
- It lets you mark automatically.
- It allows you to analyze using tools that will help you improve your teaching.

Read more online at:

<http://yacapaca.com/>

<http://www.educatorstechnology.com/2012/02/yacapaca-resource-of-free-already-made.html>



The National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) is a continental-scale ecological observation system for examining critical ecological issues.

Enabling a Better Understanding of Continental-Scale Ecology

NEON is designed to gather and synthesize data on the impacts of climate change, land use change and invasive species on natural resources and biodiversity. Data will be collected from 106 sites (60 terrestrial, 36 aquatic and 10 aquatic experimental) across the U.S. (including Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico) using instrument measurements and field sampling. The sites have been strategically selected to represent different regions of vegetation, landforms, climate, and ecosystem performance.

NEON will combine site-based data with remotely sensed data and existing continental-scale data sets (e.g. satellite data) to provide a range of scaled data products that can be used to describe changes in the nation's ecosystem through space and time.

NEON's open-access approach to its data and information products will enable scientists, educators, planners, decision makers and the public to map, understand and predict the effects of human activities on ecology and effectively address critical ecological questions and issues.

Current Status of the NEON Project

NEON successfully completed the planning and design phases and entered the construction phase in Spring 2012. NEON is currently building sites. Constructing the entire NEON network will take approximately five years, so NEON expects to be in full operation by approximately 2017. NEON will collect data for 30 years.

Read more online at:

<http://neoninc.org/>

High School Notes



Start the Year Right With 3 Free Tech Tools for High School Teachers

These tech tools can help high school teachers simplify their work life.

One new digital tool allows teachers to track a student's behavior during class time.

by: Alexandra Pannoni

The start of a new school year is a busy time for high school teachers. Between setting up a classroom and lesson planning, it can be difficult for them to stay up-to-date on the latest technology trends. New digital tools can make it easier for teachers to manage their class and more efficiently assess a student's behavior.

Below are three tools that seasoned educators recommend for fellow teachers to try to excel this school year.

Google Classroom:

The new tool from Google is designed to help teachers stay organized and streamline their work processes. The product is a part of Google Apps for Education, which includes Google Drive, Google Docs and Gmail, among other productivity tools.

One of Google Classroom's main features is the ability for teachers to digitally distribute assignments to students, which students can subsequently turn in digitally. Teachers can grade and give each student feedback without dealing with any papers.

"When you get 60 assignments handed into you at the same time, it's very overwhelming," says Heidi Bernasconi, a biology teacher at Clarkstown High School North in New City, New York, who participated in a pilot program of the tool last year.

Bernasconi says she is more efficiently able to grade assignments, which are sometimes three or four pages long each, with the digital utility.

But beyond grading, teachers and students can also communicate digitally with each other in Classroom.

"They might be doing their homework at one o'clock in the morning when I am sound asleep," says Bernasconi, of her teenage students' work habits. But with the communication tool in Classroom, her students can ask each other questions in a safe digital environment that she monitors.

Read more online at:

<http://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/high-school-notes/2014/08/18/start-the-year-right-with-3-free-tech-tools-for-high-school-teachers>

Free App: Science 360 for iPad - a Great Science App

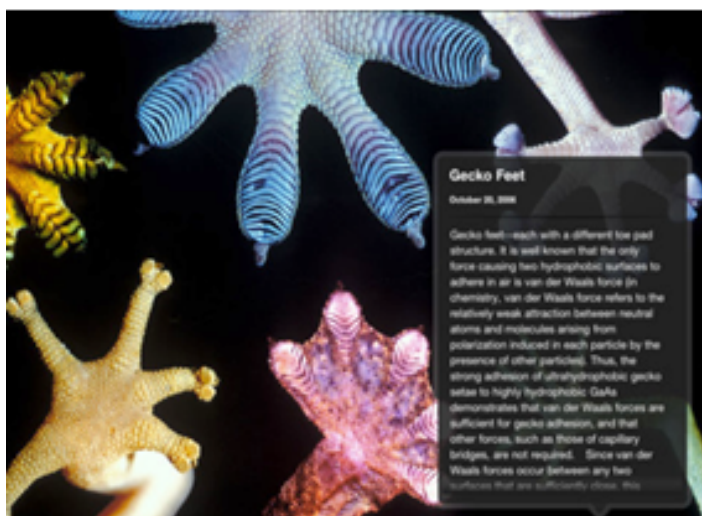
Science 360 is a FREE, high-quality science app published by the National Science Foundation (NSF). It has a wealth of information about science around us. Users can download and share spectacular science images and videos from NSF and institutions funded by NSF. All the contents are updated weekly, so you always get the most recent development of science and technology.



When you open the app, you get this scrollable 360 degree sphere that is made of thumbnails of various science photos and videos. You tap on any of the thumbnails to bring up the full-size photo/video and a small article explaining what the photo/video is about. There are hundreds of different photos/videos, and they are updated weekly.

The topics cover a wide range of science areas. Some example topics I found: "Making waves, Saving lives", "Creeping, Crawling Caterpillars", "Chance discoveries: Cellophane", "Hockey Geometry – Science of NHL Hockey", profile of scientists, such as Biogeoscientist, Biophysical chemist, and Marine Biologist.

If you tap the app with two fingers, you will bring up "tags", "news", "saved". When you tap "tags", you open up a list of subjects and you can pick any subjects interest you. The "news" section is the science news that is updated weekly. The "saved" are the photos/videos you liked.



Read more online at:

<http://igamemom.com/2012/07/13/free-app-science-360-for-ipad-great-science-app/>

Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy

The application period for the 2015 Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy is open until November 3, 2014. Click on "Enroll Today" to view the online application. Please contact Laura Esman if you have questions about enrolling in the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy.

The 2015 Academy has scheduled three mandatory Face-to-Face Sessions:

Session 1: January 14-15, 2015, Canyon Inn, McCormick's Creek State Park, Spencer, IN

Session 2: March 25-26, 2015, Tecumseh Leadership Center, Brookston, IN

Session 3: May 20, 2015, The Fort Harrison Conference Center, Fort Harrison State Park, Indianapolis, IN

A hybrid distance learning - face to face training academy, January - May

Developing and coordinating a local watershed organization can be a daunting task, especially if you are the person responsible for leading the process. If you would like in-depth training that will build your capacity for successful watershed management, we encourage you to enroll in the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy. The Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy is designed for anyone with watershed management responsibilities or interests.

Find more information online at:

<https://engineering.purdue.edu/watersheds/academy.html>

What PRISM Can Do For You!

- Easily find the perfect teaching and learning resources from our library of over 4,000.
- Store your classroom materials online so that they are available to you from any computer.
- Select from free learning resources that emphasize visualization, rich context, staged-problem solving, and electronically enabled collaboration / communication.
- Save a list of your favorite resources for quick retrieval.
- Reach your students more effectively by using web media for the digital age.
- Augment your own dynamic presence in the classroom with teaching tools that mirror the skills needed for success in higher education and the 21st Century workplace.
- Create and share lesson plans that teach your subjects utilizing your favorite resources.
- Earn PGP points by completing PRISM led online Moodle course – either Beginning Moodle or Intermediate Moodle courses are available to you at no cost several times throughout the year.

Through our strong support from the [Lilly Endowment](#) and others, we are constantly growing and improving. Check our site regularly to see what new resources you can use in your classroom.

www.rose-prism.org



PRISM is a free website that provides collections of online resources for Indiana educators in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The primary collection of digital teaching materials is indexed according to the Indiana Academic Standards for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade and secondary education courses.