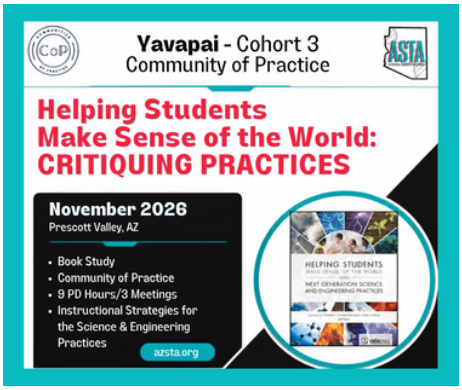
ISSUE 16 / NOVEMBER 01, 2026

ASTA ENEWS 2026

ASTA
UofA Flandrau Science Center
1601 E University Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85721-0091
azsta.org

ASTA EVENTS

- **Nov. 3, 7, 17**
  Yavapai Community of Practice
- **Nov. 10**
  Virtual Content Coaching
- **Nov. 19**
  Admin Insights: 30- Minute Power Sessions
- **December 3-4**
  ASTA 2026 Annual Conference
- **Jan. 28-29**
  ADI Inquiry Leadership Day 1-2
- **Jan. 30**
  STEM Unconference
- **Feb. 11**
  STEM Engineering Leadership Day 3
- **Feb. 12**
  3D Assessment Leadership Day 4



PLEASE NOTE:
ALL ASTA EVENT TIMES ARE IN ARIZONA TIME (MST) UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.



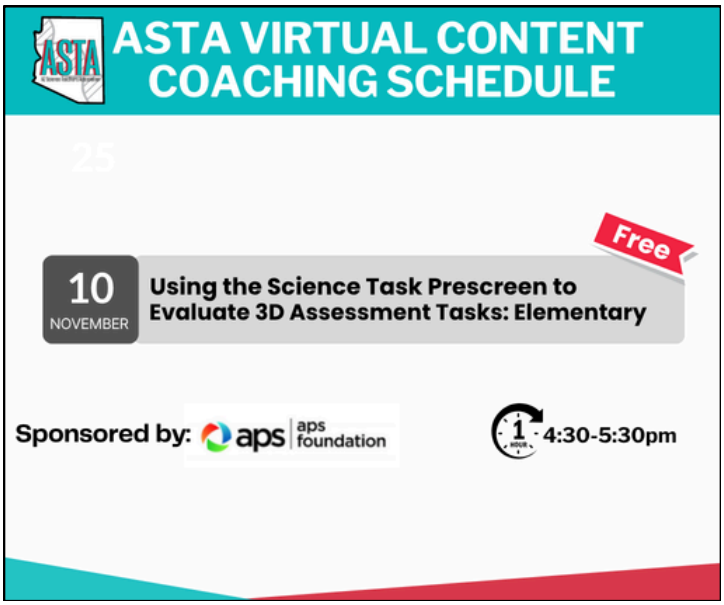
What's waiting for you?

Explore the 2026 Conference Sessions
Discover professional learning designed for your grade level, instructional interests, and experience. Explore the schedule or read detailed descriptions to plan your conference experience.

Conference Schedule at a Glance
Quickly compare session titles, times, grade levels, and locations.

Explore Detailed Session Descriptions
Learn about the presentations, speakers, classroom applications, and instructional strategies.

ASTA thanks our supporters:





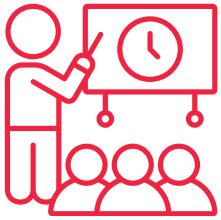


Become an ADI Facilitator.

You walk away with:
✓ The complete Introduction to ADI workshop slide deck, fully editable
✓ Facilitator notes with the timing, talking points, and moves behind each segment
✓ Participant handouts, ready to print and copy as often as you need
✓ Certified ADI trainer status and access to the trainer folder, which stays current

WHO SHOULD ATTEND
District and school science specialists, curriculum directors, instructional coaches, department leads, and teacher leaders supporting science instruction in grades K-12. Districts get the most from the institute when they send two or more people who can facilitate together.

WHAT PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO DO
- Facilitate a complete Introduction to ADI workshop for teachers
- Model an ADI investigation across all seven stages, Task through Report
- Explain the research base and the instructional rationale behind the model
- Support teachers in creating inclusive, discourse-rich science classrooms
- Anticipate and respond to the concerns teachers raise most often
- Design a professional learning plan tailored to their school or district



WHY THIS FITS ARIZONA
The 2018 Arizona Science Standards ask students to use the Science and Engineering Practices and Crosscutting Concepts to make sense of the Core Ideas. ADI is a classroom-tested model for making that expectation routine: students investigate a phenomenon, construct an argument from evidence, critique one another's arguments, and then write and revise a report.

ASTA thanks our supporters: TRBF Thomas R. Brown Foundations | aps foundation | College of Science | SRP | ACS Local Section Central Arizona | UniSource Energy Services | TEP Tucson Electric Power







FEATURED CANVAS COURSES



Science and Engineering Practice (SEP) Focus: Asking Questions

Science and Engineering Practice (SEP) Focus: Asking Questions

In this course, educators will deepen understanding what the Science & Engineering Practice of Asking Questions is and is NOT.



Science and Engineering Practice (SEP) Focus: Mathematics and Computational Thinking

Science and Engineering Practice (SEP) Focus: Mathematics and Computational Thinking

In this course educators will also explore how this SEP is integrated into the AZ Science Standards and discover what this practice looks like for each grade-band.



Deeper Dive: 3rd Grade-Exploring Waves

3rd Grade: Exploring Waves: The Wonders of Light and Sound

This course is intended to allow educators, across the state of Arizona, access to the materials that were developed for the Deeper Dive Instructional Unit: 3rd Grade Physical Science Sound and Light Unit.



Making Thinking Visible through Notebooks

Making Thinking Visible Through Notebooks:

Want to make students thinking visible? Start or refine the way you use Interactive Science Notebooks! Bring a composition notebook and join your instructor in this async course to learn about the value of making student's thinking become visible in a way that is beneficial for the students, to show their progression.

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CSI Arizona: Put Your Students' Forensic Science Skills to the Test!

The Arizona Bar Foundation invites middle and high school educators to participate in CSI Arizona, an exciting forensic science competition that challenges students to investigate crime scenes, analyze evidence, and apply critical thinking skills to solve real-world scenarios.
Teams of 4–6 students will compete in a two-part competition, beginning with a written crime scene analysis. Top teams will advance to the **State Competition in late April/early May**, where students will process a mock crime scene, examine evidence, conduct interviews, and present their findings.

Important Dates:

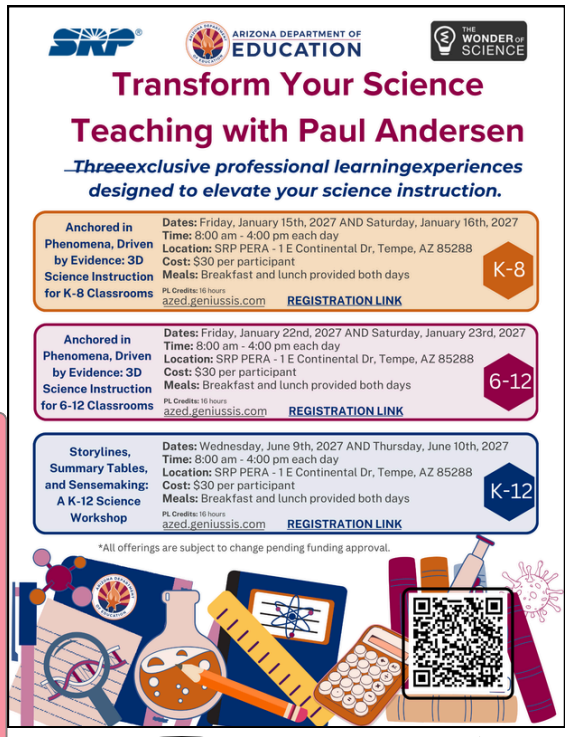
- Registration Deadline: January 6, 2027
- Scenario Release: January 8, 2027
- Submission Deadline: March 5, 2027
- State Competition: Late April/Early May 2027

Participation is free for School Safety Program (SSP) funded schools. Non-funded schools pay approximately $275 per team only if they advance to the State Competition.

Learn More & Register Your Team







Save the Date

Disciplinary Literacy in Secondary Science: Reading, Writing, and Thinking Like Scientists

Workshop

Date :Thursday, November 19, 2026
Time :9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Location :1535 W. Jefferson Street, Phoenix AZ
Cost : $15

Join fellow secondary science educators (6th - 12th grade) for a collaborative professional learning experience focused on building disciplinary literacy in grades 6-12 science classrooms. Explore practical strategies that support students in reading complex scientific texts, developing scientific vocabulary, constructing evidence-based explanations, and communicating their thinking through writing. Participants will engage with instructional approaches designed to improve engagement and achievement while strengthening science learning through literacy-rich practices.

ALPD Course Registration - Register Today!
https://azed.geniussis.com/

Academic Standards

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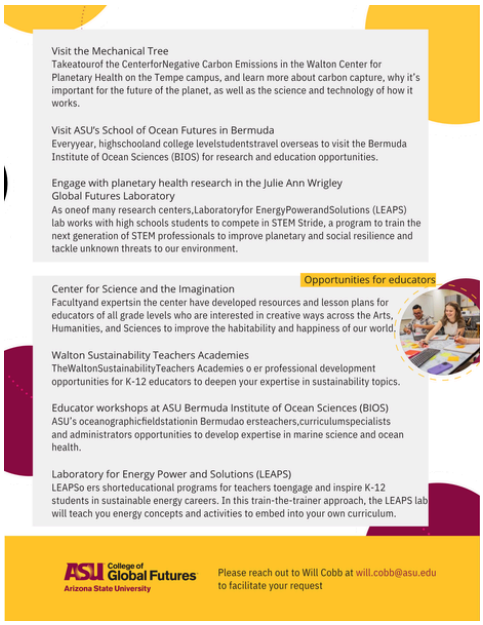
VaxShield: Free Interactive Infectious Disease Education Resources

VaxShield is a student-led initiative developing free, interactive STEM and public health education resources for middle and high school students. Its simplified infectious-disease simulator, VaxImpact, allows students to investigate how vaccination coverage, vaccine effectiveness, transmission rates, and population density influence disease spread. Accompanying student investigation worksheets and case studies guide students through developing hypotheses, conducting controlled trials, analyzing and graphing data, and constructing evidence-based explanations.

Recently featured in the Michigan Department of Education's newsletter, VaxShield is working with educators to pilot and evaluate its resources for the 2026–2027 school year. Arizona science teachers interested in exploring or piloting these free classroom materials can access them at https://vaxshield.org or contact snhverma@umich.edu or vaxshieldteam@gmail.com for additional information or a brief demonstration.









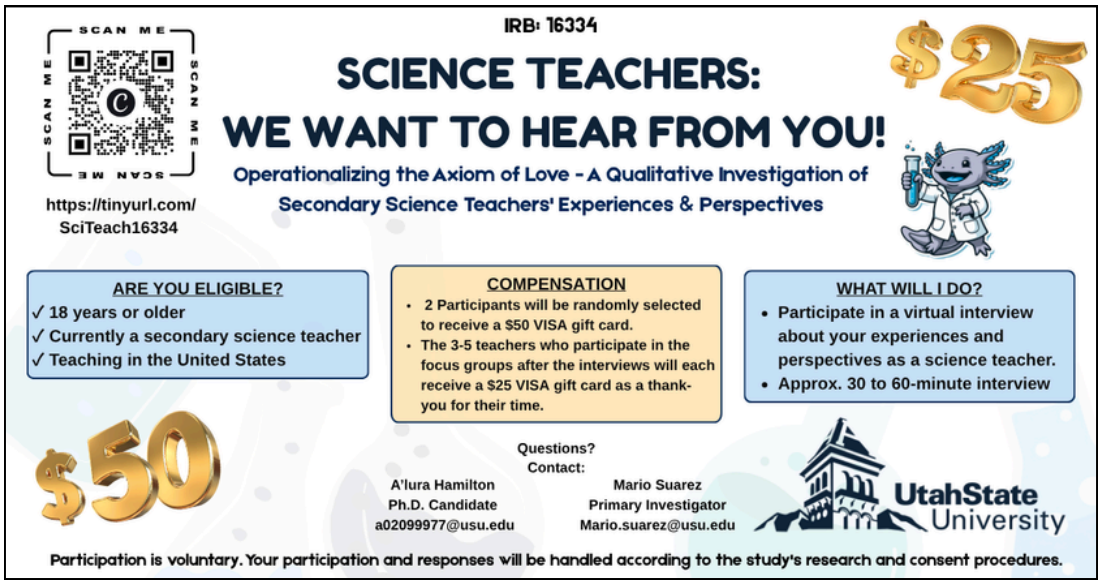
Menu of Services:
This resource provides educators with a variety of opportunities they can request for their students, including engaging experiences and programming connected to the College of Global Futures.

Youth Climate Summit:
Join us at Arizona State University for the 2026 Youth Climate Summit: Patch the Planet – a day designed to bring together students who are curious about sustainability, climate, community, leadership, and creating change.
Youth Climate Summit: PATCH THE PLANET

Different Pieces. Shared Future.
Every student brings a different perspective, interest, and experience — and that's exactly what we need to Patch the Planet.
Educators, we would love your help sharing this opportunity with students who may be interested and encouraging them to join us.

Are you a local K–12 STEM educator?

Please scan the QR code or click on the link to complete a brief 2-minute survey and share your perspectives on the resources, professional development, and support that would be most valuable to you and your students. Your input will help the University of Arizona Department of Physics develop programs that better support local teachers and classrooms. Thank you for your time!



WISER is a nonprofit focused on making quantum science and emerging technologies accessible through education, workforce development, and research. We're recruiting high school educators to pilot Quantum Unlocked, a completely free, standards-aligned quantum science curriculum for grades 9–12.

Educators can express interest here: https://forms.gle/kpDY7pt99UBsKybT8





Calling All Presenters!

On **Friday, February 12**, Arizona Science Center will host our Spring 2027 Educate to Innovate Conference from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., with breakfast and check-in beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Interested in helping ignite a passion for STEM in tomorrow's leaders? We're now accepting applications to provide in-person professional development to Arizona educators! Please complete the form below to share your **session proposals no later than Friday, December 11.**

Presenters will receive a discount code for $50 off a vendor table!

Earn 30 PD Hours Free: Physics Toolbox Sensor Suite self-paced course on Coursera

Want to use the sensors in your students' smartphones and iPads to teach physics? A new FREE Coursera course shows you how. It was developed through a NSF grant to the AMTA, in collaboration with the creators of the Physics Toolbox Sensor Suite.

Complete the course to earn a free certificate documenting 30 hours of professional development (PD).
You can also request low-cost graduate-level credit through the University of Colorado Boulder.

Register at this URL:
docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeX7kJnaP3nLAaDaZ_I7AdmIvr_p9EAm38BRyzltYWIXTW9vA/viewform



Seasons of Discovery Lecture Series

When: Friday, Nov. 13, 2026

Where: Walton Center for Planetary Health
777 East University Drive, Tempe AZ 85287-8404

VIP reception: 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. will be held on the second floor patio. Ticketed, $100 per person.*



🐾 Explore Animal Biology with WildNutri Pro & Puggle!

Bring animal science to life with WildNutri Pro and Puggle, two interactive online platforms that help students explore animal nutrition, biology, and welfare.

Students can investigate animal dietary needs, make animal care decisions, and see how their choices affect animal health. Both platforms are great resources for secondary science and biology classrooms.

Annual Licensing: A$1,000 per platform, including 30 reusable student accounts and one teacher account.

Learn More:
WildNutri Pro
Puggle

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