

PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, RESOURCES

Resource Catalog

San Diego Science Alliance's on-line Resource Catalog provides teachers with a directory of local science and technology education resources. More than 200 businesses and other organizations in the greater San Diego area are represented in the catalog. The catalog is available online through the constantly updated Science Alliance Web site (www.sdsa.org). The Resource Catalog allows teachers to choose from a broad range of resource programs in subjects relating to science and technology.

Science Alliance E-News

The Science Alliance E-News e-mail service provides advance information about local science-related events and resources for the more than 2000 registered teachers. The notices are tailored for specific grades and distributed accordingly.

Science Alliance on the Web

Educators, students, and industry leaders alike can log onto the Science Alliance Web site (www.sdsa.org) to learn about upcoming science education-related events, Science Alliance projects, and take part in interactive learning communities.

Partnership Awards Program

The Science Alliance regularly sponsors countywide meetings of science educators and community organizations. One such meeting is the annual Partnership Awards, which recognizes outstanding efforts toward the improvement of science education in San Diego County. Awards are given to the outstanding teacher, school administrator, philanthropist and volunteer of the year.

The PISCES Project

Partnerships Involving the Scientific Community in Elementary Schools (PISCES) is a Science Alliance project with major funding from the National Science Foundation. PISCES brings university science graduate students into elementary classrooms to assist elementary educators with science instruction. The project features enriched inquiry-based science curriculum, workshops and seminars for the graduate students and the classroom teachers, and extensive use of the San Diego County Office of Education's educational technology resources. Twelve San Diego area school districts currently partner with the PISCES project for instructional support and professional development in K-8 science.

Middle School Education Leadership Initiative

The *Middle School Education Leadership Initiative (MSSELI)* is a program developed by the San Diego County Office of Education, San Diego City Schools, The San Diego Foundation, and the San Diego Science Alliance. The goal of MSSELI is to identify lead science teachers from San Diego City and County middle schools. Once identified, these teachers participate in an intensive summer and academic year professional development program focused on science content, leadership strategies, and collaboration with area public and private scientific institutions. The selected MSSELI teachers assist colleagues at their respective schools, districts and region.

BE WiSE

The *Better Education for Women in Science and Engineering (BE WiSE)* program encourages middle school girls from San Diego County to pursue careers in math, science and engineering. The project stresses the importance of taking classes in these areas at the middle and high school level and provides female scientists and engineers as role models. There are three types of activities for BE WiSE participants: Girl's Science Overnight, follow-up Saturday Symposia, and distribution of science books for participating girls and their school libraries.

High Tech Fair

Each year since 1999, the High Tech Fair has introduced more than 50 local companies to approximately 2,500 San Diego junior high and high school students interested in learning more about the use of mathematics, science and technology practices. The event provides students with an opportunity to interact with local businesses that offer educational materials and a wide variety of hands-on exhibits. The event is held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, and is typically scheduled in mid March of each year.

Robotics

Robotics programs and local resources are networked to provide experiences that engage students in learning the practical applications of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Students in upper elementary through high school, teachers and industry mentors interact in the design, basic programming and building of robots. These robots are entered into competitions with an emphasis on engineering and remote sensing capabilities.

Get SSET

The *Get SSET (Get Sport Science, Engineering and Technology)* Academy is a 4-day and 3-night academic Academy for girls entering grades 9-10. Fun, educational hands-on activities introduce young women to the basic physical science, math, and engineering of sports. The academy focuses on empowering female students with technical skills and success through exciting sports science lectures and hands-on activities in a gender-neutral environment.

Health Sciences Initiative

Health Sciences Initiative is the most recent collaborative effort between SDSA and healthcare and education organizations to encourage Latino students to study science and health in high school, specifically at high school health academies, as well as enhance Latino students' health and science education experience. Through the Health Sciences Initiative project, SDSA and the collaborative partners seek to provide resources and recommendations to existing and future health academies, college level educators, and industry leaders that can be utilized to engage Latino students to pursue life science studies and health careers.

Expanding Your Horizons (Affiliated Program)

This all-day annual conference is coordinated for young women in grades through 10 with a goal of increasing participation, retention, and advancement in math, science, engineering and technology. Workshops from Archeology to Zoology enable hands-on exploration. Female college students spend a day mentoring the participants in science and math.