

Special thanks to:

Wheelock College for hosting today's event



the Chairs of the Boston STEM Network



and to the Noyce Foundation



for providing funding for this event as part of the
Frontiers in Urban Science Education (FUSE) Initiative



A Forum on

Informal Science Education

Wednesday, April 11, 2012

8:30AM-12:00PM

Coordinated by the Boston After School & Beyond's
Boston Youth Environmental Network Initiative, and
presented in partnership with the United Way and
the Boston STEM Network

Speaker Bios

Maryann Stimmer of the Educational Equity Center began her work with EEC as a parent advocate for more and better science and math. She joined the EEC staff in 1994 and has conducted professional development, coordinated program implementation, and participated in program and curriculum development. Her publications include After-School Science PLUS, After-School Math PLUS, and Playtime is Science for Students with Disabilities. She currently coordinates After-School Inclusive Math and Great Science for Girls; serves as a member of the Steering Committee for the Coalition for Science After School; chairs the Math Special Interest Group for the Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC); and is a member of the NASA Out-of-School Time Working Group.

Penny Noyce is a doctor (not now practicing), education advocate, and children's author. She is a founding trustee of the Noyce Foundation, which for the past twenty years has supported US math and science education. For nine years from 1993-2002, Penny served as co-PI of an NSF-funded statewide project in Massachusetts to improve math and science educations, PALMS. Penny also serves on the boards of a number of education non-profits, including the Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy, TERC, and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.

Ashima Shah has a background in child development and biology from Tufts University and a PhD in Science Education from the University of Michigan. Currently, she is a post-doctoral research fellow at the Program in Education, Afterschool, and Resiliency or PEAR, led by Dr. Gil Noam at Harvard University. Her work at PEAR involves developing an observation tool to assess the quality of STEM programming in afterschool settings.

Michael Barnett is an associate professor of science education and technology in the Lynch School of Education at Boston College. His primary areas of interests are designing learning environments that empower students to take charge of their own learning while becoming change agents in their community, and designing technology rich learning environments that enable students to solve complex problems. Dr. Barnett focuses his work on students who are under-represented in STEM fields and is examining development of sustainable indoor urban agricultural programs and the use of mobile devices to engage people in understanding the ecological value of urban forests.

Traci Walker Griffith, the Principal of the Eliot K-8 School in Boston, also served as Assistant Principal of the Tobin K-8 School for one year and interned at the Mather Elementary School as a Boston Principal Fellow. Ms. Griffith's teaching career in the Boston Public Schools began in 1992 at the Trotter Elementary School, where she also served as Assistant Principal for one year before becoming a Boston Principal Fellow. In 2004, Ms. Griffith won a Boston Teacher of The Year Award.

Agenda

Warm-up

Informal Science Education Activity

Welcome and Introductions

Jackie Jenkins-Scott, President, Wheelock College
Chris Smith, Executive Director, Boston After School & Beyond
Peg Sprague, Senior Vice President for Community Impact, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley & Co-Chair, Boston Regional STEM Network

Keynote Address

A National Perspective on STEM Learning in After School Settings
Maryann Stimmer, Educational Equity Center

STEM Learning in Policy and Practice Panel

Moderator, Dawn Chávez, Boston After School & Beyond
Penny Noyce, NOYCE Foundation
Ashima Shah, Program in Education, Afterschool & Resiliency
Michael Barnett, Boston College
Traci Walker Griffith, Boston Public Schools

Remarks from Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray

Informal Science Education in Action Panel

Moderator, Dawn Chávez, Boston After School & Beyond
Arthur Pearson, Thompson Island Outward Bound
Peter Nash, Boys and Girls Club of Boston
Kelly Linehan, Vertex Pharmaceuticals
Jamie Beard, FastCAP Systems

Guided Table Discussions

Wrap-up and Closing

Neil Sullivan, Boston Private Industry Council, Co-Chair, Boston STEM Network