

# Community Matters

Welcome to the Wipro Science Education Fellowship (Wipro SEF) Community Matters Newsletter. We are excited to share updates on the remarkable contributions of our fellows to STEM education. Our program has supported science teachers and districts for over a decade, benefiting nearly 750,000 students. Our partnering universities include: UMass Boston, Stanford University, University of Missouri, University of South Florida, Montclair State University, Mercy University, and UNT Dallas.



## IN THE NEWS

**New Seminar Series for DSC: Exploring AI in Education**  
Throughout the seminar, we examined how Chat GPT can enhance science education, explored strategies to improve student engagement, and connected with peers to exchange insights and best practices for integrating AI into teaching.

The Wipro SEF Learning Community is driven by educators committed to fostering meaningful change within their classrooms and districts. They prioritize student success while equipping fellow teachers with innovative instructional strategies. Through their leadership, STEM education continues to improve, engaging local communities in dynamic learning experiences, both formal and informal.

This issue highlights a range of STEM initiatives across the nation, including the St. Petersburg Science Festival in Florida, the Wipro SEF Fellows Retreat in New Jersey, and New Rochelle's STEM projects in New York. It also highlights research presentations by our Wipro Fellows at the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) conference, held in March 2025 in Philadelphia, PA.

## Acknowledgements

We want to thank Wipro, our corporate sponsor, for their continued support of science education efforts as well as the teachers, district science coordinators and university faculty who improve student learning daily.

# Community Building Events

## FLORIDA: ST. PETERSBURG SCIENCE FESTIVAL, 2025

The St. Petersburg Science Festival, was held on February 7-8. Over the two days, Wipro fellows and USF leadership engaged school groups and the general public alike with science and STEM-based activities.



## NEW JERSEY: WIPRO SEF FELLOWS RETREAT

New Jersey Wipro SEF Fellows came together for Renew, Refresh, and Re-energize Retreat that was held in the beginning of the year at Montclair State University

## NEW YORK: NEW ROCHELLE'S STEM PROJECTS

The Coding to Learn team (CTL) and their students showcased their Wipro Reimagined project during the school-based Board of Education Meeting on February 11, 2025.

The New Rochelle Arcade Challenge team started the Webster ArcadeClub, exciting 3rd-5th graders about making their own games. They use recycled materials to build. High school volunteers help with design and problem-solving.



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# NSTA Conference and Wipro Members Recognition

Wipro Fellows from Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Florida presented their work at the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) conference in March 2025, sharing their contributions to science education. Photos from left to right: Abbey Gilligan and Dr. Leana Peltier (New York) and Tara McClintock (Florida).



Dr. Arthur Eisenkraft was the recipient of the 2025 Outstanding Leadership in Science Education (OLISE) Award during the NSELA Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA.



Julian Yacho from Lively Elementary School, Irving ISD received 2025-2026 Irving ISD Elementary Teacher of the Year Award



Dr. Billy Johnson, (former Wipro Fellow), was awarded DeSoto ISD's Top Educator Achievement award for 2024-25.



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# Reflections from Wipro SEF Fellows



## CALIFORNIA: STANFORD UNIVERSITY

### RON HAMBY, SCIENCE INSTRUCTIONAL COACH, SAN JOSE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Throughout the Wipro Leadership Program, I was constantly challenged by my way of thinking about science education, how to conduct educational research, and how my teaching affected my students. We've discussed everything from how to create engaging PD to how to approach best staff/admin relationships and how to build personal learning communities both in departments and schoolwide. I left the experience rejuvenated and ready to take my teaching to the next level, bring these new practices to my science team, and start to build personal learning communities at my school.

## FLORIDA: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

### KHADIJAH GASKINS-JONES, DISTRICT RESOURCE TEACHER (DRT) FOR 9-12 SCIENCE, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

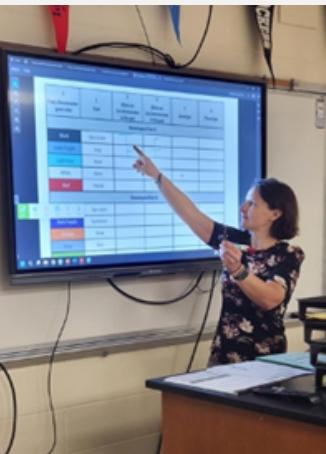
Supporting WIPRO Fellows has allowed me to support teachers in, yet another, capacity and has afforded me opportunities with state and national organizations such as FASS, FAST, NSTA, and NSELA. I was elected to the NSELA Board as the Region C Director. I'm honored to serve on a national board, but I'm most enthusiastic about how this will lead to additional support and leadership opportunities for our teachers. I'm grateful for the opportunity to support our WIPRO Fellows, and I look forward to the continued collaboration to support them and our HCPS students.



## MISSOURI: UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

### AMANDA WOLFE, 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCIENCE TEACHER AT OAKLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Amanda feels the Wipro program activities have improved understanding of the relationships between math and science practices in her classroom. Collaborating with her Wipro group members at various grade levels has inspired conversations about how they can support foundational skills that students of all ages can benefit from. Amanda has developed lessons and resources to better support her students' ability to identify prior knowledge and apply this to new situations.



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## NEW JERSEY: MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

### CLYDE GRIFFITH, SCIENCE, K-12, PLAINFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

By working together—both within our district and with educators across the state—we are shaping a more cohesive and effective science curriculum that prepares our students for future success. As we continue this journey, we remain committed to refining our approach, leveraging innovative resources like OpenSciEd, and advocating for high-quality science education in collaboration with the WIPRO fellowship.



## NEW YORK: MERCY UNIVERSITY

### AIMEE FERGUSON, CURRENT NEW ROCHELLE DC, WIPRO SEF AND REIMAGINED FELLOW

Aimee continues to exercise teacher leadership and spur district transformation with her persistent pursuit of opportunities to help educators grow. In her DC role Aimee has arranged, facilitated, and/or supported: an educator science event at the Westchester Children's Museum, Maria Walsh's, STANYSevent: Building ThinkingClassrooms, and The Cornell Lab of Ornithology interactive webinar exclusively for Wipro Fellows nationwide

## TEXAS: UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS-DALLAS

### RAISHA ALLEN, DISTRICT SCIENCE COORDINATOR, DESOTO ISD

Raisha has been in education for 8 years. She was a WIPRO Fellow in cohort 2 at UNT Dallas focusing her research on concept mapping and argument and argumentation in the science classroom. Her work ethic and experience has allowed her to be promoted to DeSoto's K-12 Science Instructional Facilitator and the District's Science Coordinator with WIPRO. She is excited about this new journey and ready to impact student engagement in the Science Classroom. She is also a Doctoral student at Baylor.



## CONTACT INFORMATION



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