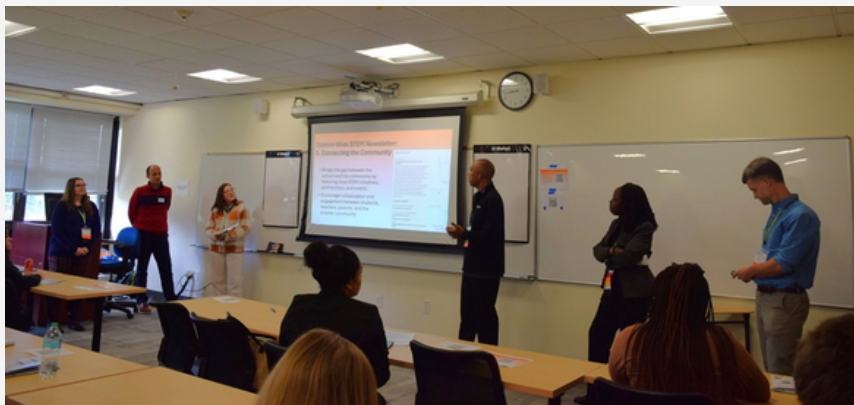




Community Matters



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, UNT Dallas, and 35 school districts in their surrounding areas.



IN THE NEWS

Conference Participation

Wipro SEF Fellows from multiple sites will be presenting their work at the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) Conference in Anaheim, CA, in April 2026.

The Wipro Science Education Fellowship community continues to show what’s possible when educators lead with interest, collaboration, and purpose. Wipro fellows are strengthening STEM learning through innovative classroom practices, district-wide initiatives, and professional leadership. This issue showcases the power of Wipro network—from Missouri fellows exploring literacy-rich science instruction to New York educators advancing belonging in STEM, and from Florida’s award-winning teachers to Texas fellows helping students “see themselves as scientists, engineers, and innovators.” Together, these stories reflect a shared commitment to expanding access, deepening engagement, and celebrating the transformative impact of teacher leadership.

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, school administrators, and university faculty who improve student learning daily.

Community Building Events


MISSOURI: WIPRO FELLOWS MEETINGS

Dr. Amy Lannin, Associate Professor and Campus Writing Program Director at the University of Missouri, led a professional development workshop on integrating literacy across disciplines, sharing her experience with STEM education and writing programs. She introduced participants to bio-poems as a way to get to know students and their content areas better.

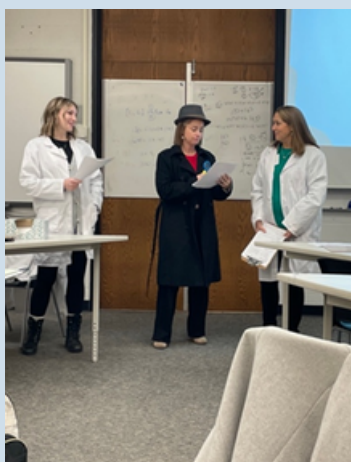


Bio Poem... adaptation...in science

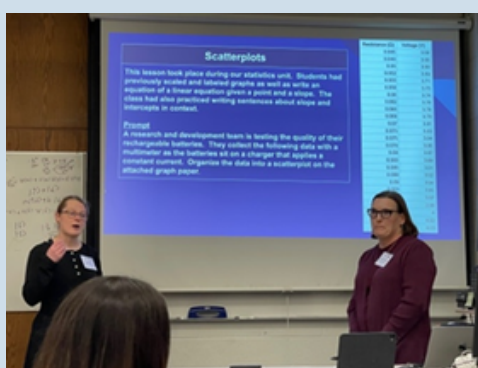
- Line 1: Element's symbol
- Line 2: three things that describe it
- Line 3: member of what family
- Line 4: used for (3 things)
- Line 5: reacts with (3 other elements)
- Line 6: taught in (class or teacher)
- Line 7: element's name



Missouri Wipro Fellows presented their work during the December 2025 meeting. Dr. Arthur Eisenkraft along with two district coordinators (Andrew Kinslow and Melissa Fike, CPS), two principals (Angie Rogers, Boonville and Dominique Falls, Lange MS, CPS), two interested teachers (Ellen Tucker and Mallory Espey from Boonville) attended this meeting.



Megan Woods, Kayla Eads and Amy Bartlett, Hallsville Intermediate School



Maria Backes and Stephanie Worthen, Helias Catholic High School



Kyle Chrisman and Lauren Friedrich, LSE Middle School, Boonville

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Community Building Events

NEW YORK: MCSE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, OCTOBER, 2025

MCSE's annual conference consisted of STEM Professional Day and K-12 STEM Educators Conference. Keynote address was given by Billy Green (NY HS Chemistry Teacher and 2023 NYS Teacher of the Year) where he explained his L.A.B. approach to STEM education. L = Love; A = Access; and B = Belonging.



MCSE STEM Professional Development Day attendees learning ways to strengthen their STEM teaching with Makey Makey.



Doctoral student William 'Billy' Green, a chemistry teacher talking about his experiences with challenging students and how he perseveres to make sure they have access to STEM learning.



Aimee Ferguson, New Rochelle DC, Wipro SEF and Reimagined Fellow; Dr. Amanda Gunning and Dr. Meghan Marrero, MCSE Co-Directors; and Michelle Memoli, Wipro Reimagined Fellow at MCSE K-12 STEM Conference



The STEM Spotlight Newsletter Team: Jordan Garcia, Kim Fleming, Jakki Forbes-Machado, Damien King, Susannah Genty-Waksburg, (Mike Nangle not pictured)



Carmen King recruited for the next cohort of Wipro Reimagined Fellows.

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Wipro Members Recognition

FLORIDA: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA



Nicole Holman just completed her PhD at USF. She wrote the following in the acknowledgement of her dissertation: “I am grateful for the important support I received from the Wipro Science Education Fellowship (SEF) program as I worked on storyline curriculum. As a national initiative focused on strengthening science teacher leadership and promoting new approaches to instruction, the Wipro SEF program made a substantial difference in my progress. The professional development and leadership training offered by Wipro SEF played a major role in helping me successfully envision, plan, refine, and implement effective storyline lessons.”

Bhangyashree Kulkarni, Science Department Chair at Middleton HS, HCPS, receiving the 2025 Florida Secondary Science Teacher of the Year from the Florida Association of Science Teachers



NEW JERSEY: MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY



Susan Bartol, from Hillside Elementary School received an award from the Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence to support her efforts to develop an interdisciplinary unit and bring the district together through the film, “Observer”.

NEW YORK: MERCY UNIVERSITY



Jefferson Elementary School, New Rochelle have been recognized by the Mercy Center for STEM Education as a STEM Network School. It is in recognition of their commitment to innovative science, technology, engineering, and math education. “The exciting honor is the result of Jefferson’s ongoing involvement in several key STEM initiatives, including the Wipro Science Education Fellowship, the Blue School Network, and the district’s Westchester STEM Ambassadors partnership.

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Reflections from Wipro SEF Fellows

CALIFORNIA: STANFORD UNIVERSITY

BRITTNEY GEER, K-2 STEAM TEACHER, MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT SCIENCE COORDINATOR: **RANEN BHATTACHARYA**
PRINCIPAL: **DANIELLE LYONS**



As educators, we are natural leaders and I am looking forward to the knowledge and applicable skills that I will learn to take back into my school site and eventually, my district. The Wipro Science Education Fellowship has provided me with a once in a lifetime opportunity where I get to engage with educators to hone our craft and celebrate our wins, and more importantly, embrace our failures as we continue to develop together. I will never forget this program, and the people who have impacted my career for the better.

MASSACHUSETTS: UMASS BOSTON

DONNA PERUZZI, CAMBRIDGE STREET UPPER SCHOOL DISTRICT SCIENCE COORDINATOR: **DEENA DEPAMPHILIS**
PRINCIPAL: **CHRISTEN SOHN**

I've taught in Cambridge, MA since 2006 and have experienced many approaches to professional development. What I most appreciate about WIPRO is the opportunity to collaborate with classroom teachers who are still "doing the work" and understand what it means to teach science in the current climate and in our local context. Because we've all voluntarily signed up for this and it's non-evaluative, our conversations feel judgement-free and lead to specific and actionable strategies that we can experiment with and implement the next day. We're still in the middle of our Fall cycle, but I've already benefited from the experience and feel that this program was the right choice for my professional development needs.



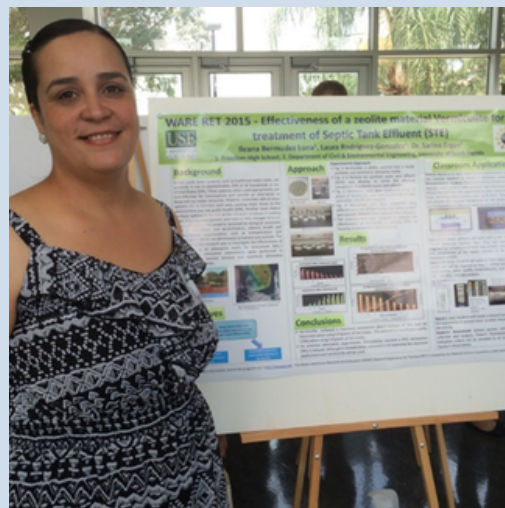
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FLORIDA: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

ILEANA BERMUDEZ LUNA, SCIENCE TEACHER AT MIDDLETON HIGH SCHOOL

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: PATRICK DEJUAN
PRINCIPAL: CAMILLA BURTON**

Ileana began her quest to become a science teacher 15 years ago. While an undergraduate she participated in an NSF-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates, and in several NSF Research Experiences for Teachers. She joined Wipro SEF and has been working on incorporation the use of virtual reality into the teaching of chemistry. At our meeting she presented a workshop on the use of VR. Co-presenters were her teammates -- Roschell Thybulle who is also a chemistry teacher at Steinbrenner High School, Khadijah Jones who is a Science Coach and District Leader and for Hillsborough County Schools, and Luis Rosado-Bermudez who is her son and teacher in the Boston area. For at least several of us at the meeting it was the first time to experience VR for science teaching.



MISSOURI: UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

AMY BARTLETT, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER AT HALLSVILLE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

**DISTRICT SCIENCE COORDINATOR: ERIN SNELLING
PRINCIPAL: DR. BETHANY MORRIS**

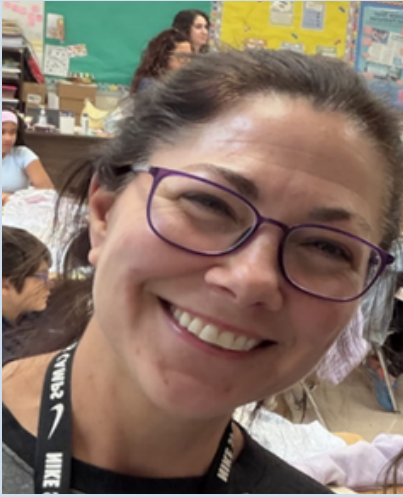


Amy says that participating in the Wipro Science Education Fellowship has been instrumental in her professional development. This is her second experience with the program as she first joined as part of Cohort 2 where she gained invaluable insights that have inspired her to return for Cohort 6. Her initial participation deepened her understanding of how to effectively apply NGSS science practices to enhance instruction. Amy has facilitated several science investigations that have required students to integrate math and science skills to measure, record data and use the data to draw conclusions. Moving forward, she is committed to refining her teaching practices to ensure her students develop these essential skills, preparing them for deeper scientific exploration and problem-solving.

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NEW JERSEY: MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

**SUSAN BARTOL, HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL: EDWYN ACEVEDO**



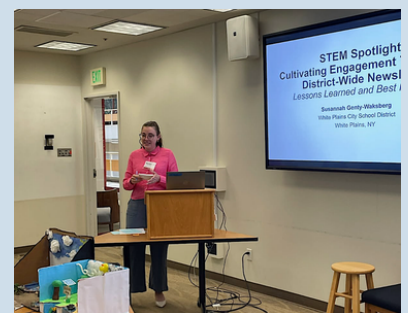
Our team is working on mini-professional development sessions for elementary science teachers. We have found that our district is seriously lacking in providing this service to teachers. We are taking an interdisciplinary approach and limiting sessions to 15-30 mins. Our major hurdle is getting buy-in because there is no real district oversight or expectation when it comes to teaching science. Our teachers keep getting more administrative duties on their plates, over-test students in math and ELA, and are learning new ELA and Math programs. We are just trying to keep the science flame lit. Susan recently received an award from the Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence.

NEW YORK: MERCY UNIVERSITY

**KIMBERLY FLEMING, WHITE PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL
DISTRICT SCIENCE COORDINATOR: AIMEE FERGUSON
PRINCIPAL: EMERLY MARTINEZ**

**SUSANNAH GENTY-WAKSBERG, GEORGE WASHINGTON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
DISTRICT SCIENCE COORDINATOR: AIMEE FERGUSON
PRINCIPAL: LAURA MUNGIN**

White Plains City School district Fellows Kimberly Fleming and Susannah Genty-Waksberg, have had their proposal accepted and will present at the NSTA National Conference in Anaheim, CA 2026 in April. Their Wipro Reimagined project: STEM Spotlight Newsletter has fueled teacher leadership and district transformation. They will share the highlights of what their team accomplished, what they've learned, and how they intend to sustain the project. We are proud of the work they have and are doing.



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TEXAS: UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS-DALLAS

**MARIANA GONZALEZ, GRAND PRAIRIE ISD
PRINCIPAL: JOEL HERNANDEZ**



Being part of the Wipro program has truly elevated my approach to teaching science. It has pushed me to reflect more deeply on my instructional practices and to incorporate more meaningful, and student-centered experiences into my classroom.

Thanks to Wipro, my students have been able to create, investigate, question, and dream. They are beginning to see themselves as scientists, engineers, and innovators. Watching their excitement as they discover new concepts or succeed after multiple attempts fills me with pride and reminds me why I chose this profession. The program has supported my growth as a science educator while helping me educate the next generation of bilingual thinkers and problem-solvers, students who may one day use their talents to make a difference in their communities, just as programs like Wipro have made a difference in mine.

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Missouri: University of Missouri **Contact:** Dr. Meera Chandrasekhar: meerac@missouri.edu

New Jersey: Montclair State University **Contact:** Dr. Mika Munakata: munakatam@mail.montclair.edu

New York: Mercy University **Contact:** Carmen King: cking25@mercy.edu

Texas: University of North Texas-Dallas **Contact:** Dr. Ratna Narayan: ratna.narayan@untdallas.edu

