



CRMSE Colloquium Announcement

Dr. Tamara Holmlund Nelson
Professor, Science Education
Washington State University Vancouver

Making Sense of STEM Education: Professional Development and Classroom Implementation

Friday, October 30, 2015
1:00 – 2:00 pm
6475 Alvarado Road, Suite 128

RSVP: <http://crmse.wufoo.com/forms/crmse-colloquia/> or
Karen Foehl Palmer, kfoehl@mail.sdsu.edu

Abstract: There is little common agreement as to what STEM education means in terms of curriculum and student outcomes. This lack of clarity impacts what is provided to teachers through professional development (PD) and how teachers' understandings are translated into student learning opportunities. In this study, we examined the conceptualizations of STEM education by three different groups of educators: middle school teachers involved in a two-year PD project, teachers and a principal at a STEM-focused secondary (6th-12th grade) school, and STEM education PD providers. Concept maps and interviews were used to capture the meanings teachers and others had constructed for "STEM education." Classroom observations and other data were used to generate descriptions of four models of STEM education implementation in three middle schools. Other findings related to student outcomes and challenges in STEM education implementation will also be discussed.

