Women

in Educational Technology Leadership

Innovative Educator
CONSULTING

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Happy Beautiful Fall Educators!!!

As the leaves transform into a breathtaking tapestry of reds, oranges, and yellows, we find ourselves immersed in the enchanting season of change. In this Fall edition of the IEC TechBytes newsletter, we embark on a journey that mirrors the vibrant transformations of autumn itself.

Get ready to discover innovative AI implementation approaches that will empower your teaching, dive into nature's sensory wonders with exciting Fall activities, discover FREE online certification courses, embrace the spirit of creativity through Maker and STEM designer challenges, and celebrate as we shine a spotlight on Wisconsin's schools of innovation.

This season, let's embrace the winds of change and usher in a new era of education and learning inspiration. Welcome to a Fall full of promise and possibility!

With gratitude,

Naomi Louise

Innovative Educator Consulting, CEO

FREE AI Tools for Teachers

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Give yourself the time, data, and tools to design a better, more personalized classroom with SchoolAI **https://schoolai.com**. I especially appreciate this research and design tool to create personalized and engaging **5E STEM driven lessons** (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate) for students and teachers.

Another exciting tool that is built into School AI is called "Spaces" this is where you have access to AI-powered activities for K-12 classrooms.

SchoolAI is FREE for teachers and is compliant with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA).

Keeping Up With EdTech

Keeping up with EdTech can be challenging, but this should help. We asked 50+ Tech coaches, "What's your one best thing in EdTech right now?" **Here are their responses in this amazing curated list of resources, templates and tech tips - enjoy! (**Thanks to **@KyleNiemis** for sharing this amazing EdTech resource collection!

Looking for **'Use of Artificial Intelligence policy' template** for schools - look no further - we got you covered thanks to **@ICTEvangelist** and **@asklauraknight**

AI Teaching Tools and Resources

Have you used **MagicSchool.ai** yet? This site can save educators hours of time with productivity tasks and lesson plans and activities. Check out the array of tools below. New tools are added frequently, such as the new YouTube Quiz Generator.

MMagicSchool.ai

- Accommodation Suggestion Generator
- Assignment Scaffolder
- Multiple Explanations for Complex Concepts
- Restorative Reflection Generator
- Letter of Recommendation
- Text Leveler Tool
- Behavior Intervention Suggestion
- Colleague Song Generator
- Team Builder / Ice Breaker
- Math Story Word Problems
- Unit Plan Generator
- Rubric Generator
- Lesson Plan Generator
- Student Work Feedback Tool
- YouTube Video Question Generator
- YouTube Video Summarizer
- AND MANY MORE!

Importance of Nature in Our Lives

Fall and nature-based sensory activities offer a wide range of benefits for both children and adults, including physical health, stress reduction, creativity, and a deeper connection with the natural world. **It's called forest bathing.**

- Developmental Growth: Sensory activities in nature help children develop their sensory perception, fine and gross motor skills, and cognitive abilities.

- Stress Reduction: Spending time outdoors and engaging with natural elements can reduce stress and anxiety in children and adults, promoting better mental health.

- Creativity: Nature offers a diverse range of materials and environments, fostering children's and adult's creativity and imagination.

- Physical Health: Activities like hiking, climbing, and playing in nature help children and adults stay physically active and develop a love for the outdoors.

- Environmental Awareness: Engaging with nature from an early age instills a sense of environmental responsibility and encourages children and adults to care for the natural world.

Bonus checkout these 25 activities just for adults too!

Outdoor Fall Activities For All

- Bark art painting - [have you tried this activity yet?](#)

- Become birdwatchers and [create your own recycled bird feeder.](#)

- Embark on a fall scavenger hunt [with this checklist.](#)

- Geocaching with kids, why [it's the ultimate nature activity.](#)

- Go birdwatching with [your own DIY binoculars.](#)

- Let's exercise outdoors. [Why yoga and kids go together](#). And discover [mindfulness in the garden movement techniques.](#)

- Paint or carve a pumpkin [and use these free stencils.](#)

- Rake a neighbor's leaves. Not only does raking leaves encourage empathy, but it's great exercise — and a fun family activity, too.

- Try a fall-themed science experiments. [Checkout these 60 wet & wild nature activities and experiments.](#)

Checkout These FREE Online Courses and Certifications

Are you looking to improve your instructional approaches and gain more engagement traction in your classroom with your students? Well look know further and tap into this FREE online courses and short professional development certifications to take at your learning pace :-)

- AI for Education
- AI for Educators ASCD
- Canvas
- Coursera
- EdWeek
- edWeb
- Facing History
- ISTE AI Exploration
- Khan Academy
- KQED Teach
- LearnersEdge
- Library of Congress
- Makerspaces for Creative Learning
- National Educators Association (NEA)

- PBS TeacherLine
- SciLearn
- ShareMyLesson
- SimpleK12
- SHAPE America
- Sanford Aspire
- Stanford's Machine Learning
- Teach Engineering
- TeachersFirst
- TeachingTolerance
- The Institute for Arts Integration and STEAM
- UdaCity AI Course
- Waterford.org Science of Reading

The 5E's Inquiry Instructional Model Course

Thanks to **Dr. Catlin Tucker** from California, there is now an innovative online blended learning course to hone your expertise teaching skills when it comes to the 5E's of Inquiry-based learning and instruction.

This course will build your teaching and learning confidence to design student-centered inquiry lessons using the 5Es instructional model, that blends online and offline learning to actively engage your students!

Our IEC team of master facilitators highly recommends this flexible learning course, and note how cost effective it is is for only $24.95. Best yet..... it aids in the ultimate flexibility to meet the demands of your business teaching and life schedule to complete when the time is right for you and your colleagues.

The 5E Online Course Website:
https://blendedu.teachable.com/p/5es-instructional-model-with-a-blended-twist

K-12 Grant Opportunities

Fund for Teachers
- What It Is: These self-designed grants allow educators to create their own unique professional development opportunities based on what they know they need in order to grow as a teacher.
- Award: $5,000 to $10,000 and Deadline: April 20

National Girls Collaborative Project
- Mini-grants are awarded to girl-serving programs that focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to support collaboration, address gaps and overlaps in service, and share exemplary practices.
- Award: $1,000
- Deadline: Ongoing

Teaching Gardening Grants Program
- The American Heart Association works with schools to find local sponsors to help fund the installation of raised bed gardens in schools.
- Award: Up to $1,000
- Deadline: October 29

Casey's Cash for Classrooms Grant Program
- In 2021, Casey's awarded $1 million to benefit K-12 public and nonprofit private schools through 99 grants. Categories included physical improvements, material needs, teacher support, and community engagement. (Note: Open to K-12 public and private schools within Casey's 16-MidWest state footprint.
- Award: $3,000 to $50,000
- Deadline: November 30

Free Grants and Funding Guide and Webinar

Even though this September webinar has already aired, you can still gain access to the recording and the Code Combat's FREE comprehensive funding guide that @NaomiHarm has prepared for you and your schools.
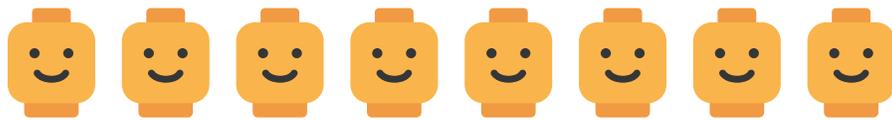

https://codecombat.com/grants

Pumpkin Pinball

Want to introduce more physics and STEM in your classroom? What a better way than to encourage your students to design their own prototype and physical pumpkin pinball game with tools for kids --> **3DUX Design Go Box** or **Make Do's.**
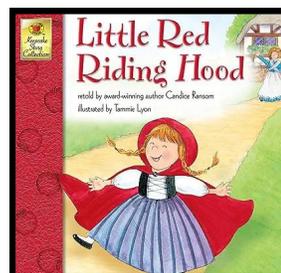

Litercy + Zip Lining + LEGOs

Create a LEGO zip line to demonstrate basic physics, truly models how science is all around us! You don't need to buy an expensive science kits to plan fun science activities for your students. We enjoy doing STEAM activities using simple household objects and inexpensive materials and resources that you may already have on hand.

This LEGO zip line exercise is actually ideal for students to look at everyday materials- supported with an interesting storyline, so they can imagine and create a new product solution to make positive change in their lives.

BECORNS

An amazing artist named, David Bird, had created imaginative photographs by making tiny woodland creatures using pinecones, acorns, and other items found in the forest. You can check out his beautiful art **here.**

This is a great way to get students out into nature and bringing their own woodland creature to life. Then, they could choose to take it home or put it back into the forest somewhere for others to enjoy!
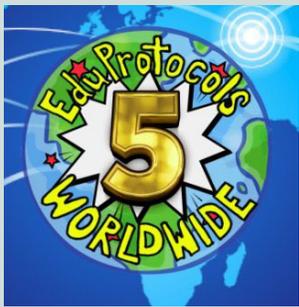

https://www.davidmbird.com

EduProtocols Worldwide

Good friend **@jcorippo** has a call for speakers OPEN! **#Eduprotocols** Worldwide (Nov 4, 2023). 100% Free and 100% awesome! Over 1000 registered every year! Share your favorite Eduprotocols + you'll get access to "insider" info. #edchat #edtech #teachers #teaching #pedagogy **http://tinyurl.com/WW5Speakers**

Move Over Google Jamboard

Did you hear the news???? **Google Jamboard is being discontinued.** I know, major disappointment for us educators and our students to say the least....

Yet our team has found many replacement choices as our new go-to collaboration and design tools - an we are really liking **FigJam.** Figma and FigJam are design and collaboration software used by professional designers, engineers, and makers of all kinds. Use them to ideate, create, and share work—all free, as a student or teacher.

 Want to learn more???? Discover FigJam: The future of online whiteboards through these free webinars being hosted on Oct. 3rd or Nov. 7th or Dec. 6th at 4PM EST.

------->>>>>>> **Register here through this link**<<<<<<-------

Hello Friend

Hello, Friend is a short drawing activity that encourages students to reflect on their relationship to technology.

THE LEARNING GOALS
1. Identify positive and negative feelings that arise from using digital technologies.
2. Describe how technology impacts your feelings and behaviors.

Here are more **additional resources and student activities** designed to create more meaningful learning opportunities for todays Gen Z and Gen Alpha students to enhance critical thinking around digital technologies.

2023 SLATE Conference

This year's SLATE conference theme is "Harnessing the Power of AI." This annual MidWest conference will take place once again in WI Dells, Wisconsin at the Kalahari Resort on the days of Monday through Wednesday December 4th - 6th.

Keynote Speaker Jennie Magiera

Jennie Magiera, Global Head of Education Impact for Google will share Google's perspective on current trends related to self, school and system—shaping the future of education, with the goal of sparking ideas and discussion on how we can best work together to help all learners and educators succeed.

Join the Innovative Educator Consulting team as they, together with ten "spotlight schools" from the state of Wisconsin, demonstrate and model how to engage todays diverse learners with STEAM critical thinking and hands-on learning experiences. *BONUS- An innovative LEGO zip-lining design challenge will also take place with a large LEGO building kit that will be up for grabs at this conference!!! This year's event will take place in the Majia Lounge between the hours of 9:30AM and 3:30PM on Monday December 4th this year.

Our creative STEAM topics will include the following learning choices:
1. "AI Innovators Hub" - AI smorgasbord of tools, resources, activities, and lessons.
2. "Elastic Learning" - Show how teachers can adapt/flex their teaching methods.
3. "Elevate STEM Excellence" - 5 E inquiry-based STEM playbook of activities and lessons.
4. "Grant Gurus' Guild" - STEM to STEAM funding strategies, grant lists, and crowdsourcing resources.
5. "Growth Garden Retreats" Personal/professional growth through nature-based experiential learning.
6. "Robotics Renaissance" - Explore the renaissance of robotics in edu through hands-on experiences.
7. "Maker Mindsets" - Grassroots approach to design/deliver your own Makerspace and STEM program.
8. "Let's "Chat About It" - Discover how ChatGBT, Bard, School AI design tools are a teacher's best friend.
9. "Literacy Lighthouse" - Literacy infused K-6 STEM hands-on activities.
10. "STEM Sparks" - Make and take STEM designer card challenges.
11. "Mindful Mastery" - Mindfulness techniques for reducing stress and improving focus in the classroom.
12. "Virtual Voyager" - Explore emerging VR and AR tools for enhanced teaching and learning.