

# Engaging Students in STEM Learning



Christian Schunn

Senior Scientist, Learning Research and Development Center Professor, Psychology Professor, Learning Sciences and Policy

## CURRENT RESEARCH

Removing barriers for students and replacing them with a passion for continued learning

At sixteen, when asked what your favorite part of school was, odds are physics, calculus, or AP biology didn't surpass lunch or P.E. Often, navigating the complexity of challenging classes prevents students from pursuing them after high school. Dr. Chris Schunn, of the University of Pittsburgh, is looking at the ways that science, engineering, technology, and mathematics can be brought together in classroom tasks that can be implemented in most classrooms by typical teachers and lead to improvements in learning and attitude outcomes. Through the development of curriculum, teacher trainings, and basic research, Dr. Schunn and his team are bringing the excitement of STEM learning back to the classroom to transform the slow decline in student interest. Not only is his research leading to a two-fold increase in student learning and incredible opportunities for teacher trainings, he's also finding that students are more engaged than ever before in classroom learning! Such an impact is likely to have long lasting effects on students as STEM has become an important part of the workplace where science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are interwoven and dependent upon one another.

Dr. Schunn's research is making large strides each year. In fact, he expects to produce a radically transformed high school biology course within the next three years and, with additional funding, will continue to make similar progress in chemistry as well. His unique background as a researcher who studied how scientists and engineers think has largely impacted his ability to create content for students that has real-world ramifications beyond the walls of their high schools. Thus, he and his team are able to implement true...

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## AFFILIATION



University of Pittsburgh

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Psychology 1995, Carnegie Mellon University

## AWARDS

- Fellow, Association for Psychological Science, 2014
- Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Section Q, 2011
- Fellow, American Psychology Association, Division 3, 2009
- Fellow, International Society for Design & Development in Education, 2006
- Best paper award at the 24th International Conference on Design Theory and Methodology
- and 1 more...

## RESEARCH AREAS

Education, STEM

## FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the continued research of Dr. Schunn as he continues to build a science of tasks that make math, science, and technology ignite in all classrooms. Donations will support the necessary \$300K per year required for the interdisciplinary team of personnel that study and improve STEM learning in real classrooms, provide expertise in learning and teaching, and build curricula. While donations of \$40K and above are helpful in funding individual team members, smaller donations could also add significant strengths to Dr. Schunn's lab.