

Hello teachers and supporters,

We have had a busy fall at University of Washington's *Genome Sciences Educational Outreach* and are excited to share updates with you. You are receiving this email because you participated in one of our workshops in the past, and we wanted to let you know about several new opportunities in 2019.

### CURRICULUM NEWS

We continue to explore **Type 2 Diabetes** as a phenomenon that anchors many concepts taught in high school biology and health classes through our current grant *Genes, the Environment, and Me: A Health and STEM Network* (GEMNet). Our original GEM 8-lesson unit on Type 2 Diabetes has been updated and restructured into the following complementary units:

[Biology, Homeostasis, and Type 2 Diabetes](#)

[Health, Nutrition, and Type 2 Diabetes](#)

Each unit is accompanied by a slide set, is fully integrated with the national standards for Biology or Health, and can be taught in 7 to 14 days. One-page overviews, a gapless explanation, NGSS bundles, and access to the slides sets can be found [here](#). Check them out!

### SUMMER WORKSHOPS and CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

We will be offering a number of teacher professional development opportunities this summer, ranging in length from 4 hours to 4 days in both the Yakima Valley and the Seattle area. Teachers will get hands-on experience with the current Health or Biology curriculum, learn from experts about current research, receive classroom materials and a stipend for their time, and become qualified to participate in the GEMNet Research Study if desired. Curriculum development sessions will follow the summer workshop for selected interested teachers. More information about dates and times to come in February.

### THE GEMNet RESEARCH STUDY

We are now recruiting health and biology teachers who are interested in incorporating type 2 diabetes lessons into their classes and participating in a research study that measures how well their students understand the content in a science class, a health class, or a combination of both classes across 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. We are particularly interested in identifying teams of health and biology teachers from the same school, although individual health or biology teachers are also welcome to participate on their own. Interested teachers would: 1) gather baseline data from curriculum-naïve students this year; 2) participate in a summer workshop (minimum 4 hours); and 3) gather additional data with students in the next school year just before and after teaching the type 2 diabetes unit.

[Click here for more information about the study](#), including benefits to teachers.

Interested in partnering with us? [Please fill out the online interest form found here](#).

## YEAST FEAST LOANER KIT

[Yeast Feast: Finding Glucose in Food](#) is a kit newly available for loan from GSEO. This kit can be used as a lab extension to the curriculum, or as a stand-alone lesson. In the lab, students use CO<sub>2</sub> production by yeast as an assay for the amount of glucose in a food. The lab is bookended by a number of activities, including tools to support student model-making. The kit includes 8 water baths, glucose and sucrose solutions, enzymes, test tubes, beakers, materials for modeling, and more. The kit is available for pick up from the UW.

## C. ELEGANS COST CENTER

Interested in using the unit developed during our previous GEM grant [What can we learn from worms?](#) Worm kits are available through [Carolina](#) or through GSEO for former GEM teachers. Contact Joan ([jcgriz@uw.edu](mailto:jcgriz@uw.edu)) for more information.

## MAUREEN'S RETIREMENT and DIRECTOR SEARCH

Maureen Munn retired in August, after many years serving as the director of GSEO. From sequencing DNA in high school classrooms in the 1990s to bringing *C. elegans* to high school classrooms more recently, Maureen has positively impacted hundreds of teachers and thousands of students throughout her career in science education outreach. While she is enjoying her grandson, travel, and new hobbies, we are interviewing for her replacement and will introduce you to GSEO's new director in the next months.

Please consider joining us on [FACEBOOK](#) for type 2 diabetes-related information and the latest news and information about the program.

All the best,

Joan and Helene

**Joan Griswold, MIT**

**Helene Starks, PhD**

Genome Sciences Educational Outreach  
University of Washington

*GEMNet: Genes, the Environment, and Me: A Health and STEM Network*

<https://gsoutreach.gs.washington.edu/>

