

STEP Central

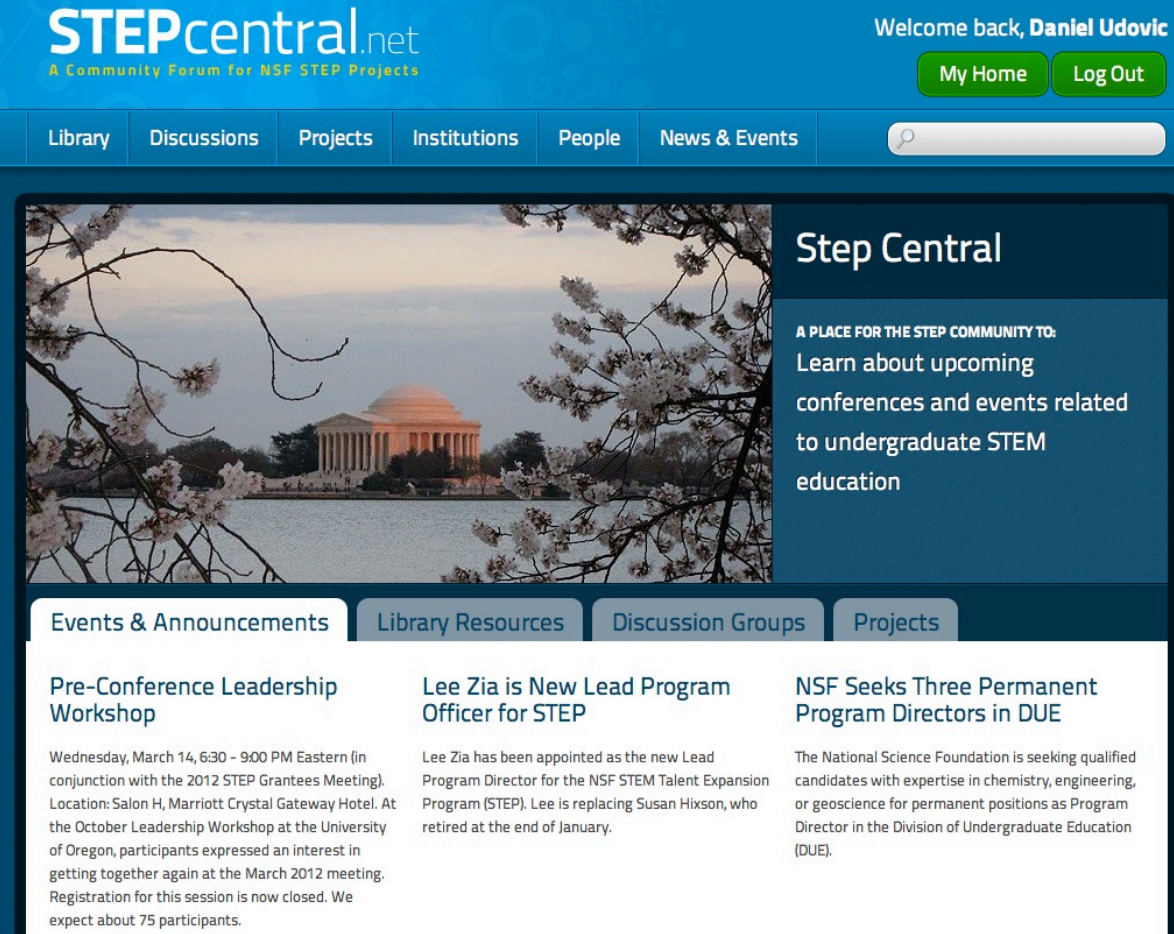
Toward a Community of Practice



STEP 2012
Sustaining Excellence in STEM Undergraduate Education: Toward a Community Of Practice

Agenda Mar 14, 2012 **Agenda Mar 15, 2012** **Agenda Mar 16, 2012**

Time	Title	Description	Posts
7:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Poster Setup	Salons I, II & III	0 posts
7:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Registration	Location: Arlington Registration Desk Check below for PDFs of meeting packet materials!	2 posts
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Mentorship Meetings	Meet at Arlington Registration Desk	0 posts
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Opening Session	Salons IV, V & VI Welcoming Remarks and Meeting Information: Katherine J. Denniston, Acting Division Director, DUE Barbara M. Olds, Acting Deputy Assistant Director, EHR Lee Zia, STEP Lead Program Director, DUE Daniel Udovic, University of Oregon, Meeting Organizer Introduction of Speaker: José Herrera, Program Director, DUE Speaker: Sandra McGuire, Professor of Chemistry and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Learning, Teaching & Retention,	



STEPcentral.net
A Community Forum for NSF STEP Projects

Welcome back, **Daniel Udovic**
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Step Central

A PLACE FOR THE STEP COMMUNITY TO:
Learn about upcoming conferences and events related to undergraduate STEM education

[Events & Announcements](#) [Library Resources](#) [Discussion Groups](#) [Projects](#)

Pre-Conference Leadership Workshop

Wednesday, March 14, 6:30 - 9:00 PM Eastern (in conjunction with the 2012 STEP Grantees Meeting). Location: Salon H, Marriott Crystal Gateway Hotel. At the October Leadership Workshop at the University of Oregon, participants expressed an interest in getting together again at the March 2012 meeting. Registration for this session is now closed. We expect about 75 participants.

Lee Zia is New Lead Program Officer for STEP

Lee Zia has been appointed as the new Lead Program Director for the NSF STEM Talent Expansion Program (STEP). Lee is replacing Susan Hixson, who retired at the end of January.

NSF Seeks Three Permanent Program Directors in DUE

The National Science Foundation is seeking qualified candidates with expertise in chemistry, engineering, or geoscience for permanent positions as Program Director in the Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE).

Daniel Udovic
STEP 2012

The STEP Central Team

- ❖ Dan Udovic, Tania Siemens (UO)
- ❖ Jeremy AAsum & Mike Biglan (Concentric Sky, Inc.)
- ❖ Clare Strawn & Brandon Olszewski (ISTE)
- ❖ STEP Central Advisory Team
- ❖ STEP Leadership (Group, Council, Team, Cadre...)

*“Communities of practice (CoP’s) are:
--groups of people (community)
--who share a concern or a passion for
something they do (domain)
--and learn how to do it better (practice)
as they interact regularly.”*

-- Etienne Wenger

Opportunities for sharing...

National & “Regional” Meetings:

- ❖ **Breakout Sessions**
- ❖ **Poster Sessions**
- ❖ **Mentorship Meetings**
- ❖ **Plenary Speakers**

STEP Central Website:

- ❖ **Online Discussions**
- ❖ **Blogs**
- ❖ **Resource Libraries**
- ❖ **Member & Project Profiles**
- ❖ **News & Events**

Virtual Meetings & Webinars

- ❖ **Special Topics**
- ❖ **Presentation by experts**
- ❖ **Synchronous interaction**
- ❖ **Small groups of geographically dispersed members**
- ❖ **Community Outreach**

Community Organization?

How should the community be organized so that:

- ❖ It accomplishes its purpose?
- ❖ Expertise of community members is transparent?
- ❖ Members take on leadership roles consistent with their expertise?

Forming *Special Interest Groups*

- ❖ Large Community is composed of many overlapping smaller CoP's
- ❖ How could these smaller CoP's be organized?
 - ❖ By topics (e.g., project strategies - bridge programs)
 - ❖ By project role (e.g. project evaluators, coordinators)
 - ❖ By geographical area (e.g., the Southwest, New England)
- ❖ Let's call these "Special Interest Groups" or "SIGs"

Questions for SIG Sessions

- ❖ What are major questions/issues to address
- ❖ Are there webinar topics of interest to this SIG? SIG members who could be presenters?
- ❖ Are there webinar topics that members of this SIG could present to the STEP community? Presenters?
- ❖ Volunteer moderators for SIG discussion groups on STEPcentral.net?
- ❖ Are there "collections" in the STEPcentral.net Library of interest to this SIG? Volunteers "curators"?
- ❖ Other ways can STEPcentral.net be of use?

More Questions for SIG Sessions

- ❖ Would SIG web conferences be useful? Who might take the lead in making these happen?
- ❖ Would a small face-to-face conference be useful? What would be the purpose?
- ❖ How will the SIG be organized? Does it make sense to have SIG "officers"? An organizing committee?
- ❖ How will the SIG reach out to recruit other members from the STEP community?

Two New Features of STEPcentral.net

- ❖ STEPcentral blog -- where members can share opinion pieces, position papers, etc.
- ❖ The Conference Section -- includes “virtual poster session” ---- also includes links to SIG Discussion Groups

What can STEPcentral.net do for you? What can *you* do for STEPcentral.net?

Using STEPcentral.net to build "community networks"

1. STEP Central's Resource Library
2. On-Line Discussions
3. Blogs & Opinion Pieces
4. Project Pages
5. Individual Profiles
6. Notifications and Social Networking
7. Membership & Privacy issues
8. Webinars
9. Regional Organizing Committees - ROC's
10. Website support for small meetings

How do we measure success?

Effectiveness:

- ❖ Extent to which we are meeting our objectives and providing value and benefit to the members

Health:

- ❖ Member satisfaction, level of activity, quality of interactions



Some Dimensions of “CoP” Design

- ❖ Collective identity and clear purpose
- ❖ Opportunities for sharing knowledge, expertise & experiences
- ❖ Community structure & Effective leadership
- ❖ Community sociability and usability
- ❖ Measuring success

Sociability and Usability?

- ❖ What can we do to welcome community participation and engagement?
 - ❖ Example: Mentorship programs
 - ❖ Special Interest Groups
- ❖ How can we make community tools effective, friendly, and easy to use?
 - ❖ Examples: poster sessions @ annual meeting; user interface for STEP Central and for web conferencing

Collective Identity and Purpose?

- ❖ What do we have in common?
- ❖ What do we want to accomplish *as a community (of practice)*?
- ❖ How do we *do* that?