

## **The First Conference for Promoting STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

December 14, 2007  
8:30 am – 2:30 pm  
Oakton Community College  
7701 N. Lincoln Avenue  
Skokie, IL 60077

You are cordially invited to attend the First Conference for Promoting STEM. The theme of this conference is Problem Based Learning (PBL). Our objectives for presenting PBL are to:

- Foster STEM students' critical and creative thinking;
- Enhance STEM students' reading comprehension and fluency in content areas;
- Motivate learners who may be "turned-off" to traditional strategies; and
- Bridge the curriculum with relevant connections between learning and real life.

### **Participant Benefits**

- Attendees will gain hands-on experience as PBL learners and opportunities to consider PBL curriculum design and implementation through guided practice and dialogue.
- High school teachers will receive CPDU's.
- The first 15 community college faculty will receive a stipend of \$200 for participation.
- After the conference, 15 high school teachers and community college instructors will receive \$400 for designing a PBL scenario, integrating and implementing PBL into their courses, and conducting an evaluation of the effectiveness of PBL with assistance from CP-STEM.
- Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

### **Registration**

Spaces are limited. Please register by email to Gloria Liu at [glorial@oakton.edu](mailto:glorial@oakton.edu) by November 30, 2007.

### **About the Presenter**

Debra Gerdes taught elementary and secondary mathematics methods courses for Western Illinois University and Benedictine University. Since 1998, she has been a Professional Development Leader for PBL at Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy.

### **About the Organizers**

Funded by the National Science Foundation, Oakton Community College established the Center for Promoting STEM (CP-STEM) in 2006 to increase enrollment and retention of students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). For more information, please visit [www.oakton.edu/cp-stem](http://www.oakton.edu/cp-stem).

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