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HEALTHY PEOPLE, PLACES AND ENVIRONMENTS: 2024 NV STEAM CONFERENCE

Educators from across the state are invited to participate in engaging, hands-on workshops and to learn from nationally recognized keynote speakers during the 2024 NV STEAM Conference. The theme for the March 2024 event is 'Healthy People, Places, and Environments,' aimed at inspiring and helping educators to develop teaching strategies and skills for their classrooms that explore how art, environment, place and community impact our physical, emotional and mental health.

Reno, NV (February 22, 2024) –STEAM learning continues to expand in the Silver State as the Nevada Museum of Art and the Desert Research Institute announces the [2024 NV STEAM Conference](#). The theme for the 2024 conference is 'Healthy People, Places and Environments,' and offers educators a professional development opportunity to explore how art, environment, and community contribute to STEAM curricula. Every year, the NV STEAM Conference aims to inspire innovation in teaching strategies through presentations and hands-on workshops and nationally recognized speakers. More than 400 educators from across the Silver State attend the annual conference, which is hosted virtually, opening opportunities to educators from every school district to attend and to earn professional development hours approved by the Nevada Department of Education.

The virtual conference begins with an opening presentation by Museum and DRI leaders at 4 pm on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 exploring what STEAM learning means to an art museum and a research institute. Then, a keynote, workshops and synthesis take place on Saturday, March 16 from 8:30 am-12:30 pm. The featured keynote by Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, will explore how the natural world influences our developmental psychology, learning process and mental health.

The theme 'Health People, Places, and Environments' was inspired by the installation [Monument to Sharing](#), located at the Nevada Museum of Art, by the artist duo Fallen Fruit. This living garden invites guests to explore ideas of generosity, agricultural production and the meaning of "community."

"Each year, we invite PreK-12 educators from across the state to join us in a conference designed to spark new ideas and possibilities for STEAM-based learning in Nevada's schools. We're exploring healthy people, places and environments are beneficial for our overall well-being. By bringing educators together with inspiring keynotes and workshops, we're creating a

vibrant, sustainable and healthy Nevada for us all,” said Megan Bellister, Nell J. Redfield Curator of Learning and Engagement at the Nevada Museum of Art.

The NV STEAM Conference is Nevada’s largest event dedicated to the exploration of ideas and strategies to integrate holistic learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math into classroom practices. Nevada Museum of Art has partnered with Desert Research Institute since the conference’s inception in 2015. This partnership highlights the commitment of both institutions to advancing STEAM education for Nevada’s youth.

“The collaboration between the Desert Research Institute and the Nevada Museum of Art brings a unique blend of scientific study and artistic exploration to the forefront of STEAM education. This partnership provides a dynamic and innovative learning experience for educators preparing students for a future where interdisciplinary thinking is key. Educators will learn about innovative ways to integrate STEAM principles into their teaching practices, fostering a dynamic and engaging educational experience in their classrooms,” said Emily McDonald-Williams, STEM Education Program Manager at the Desert Research Institute.

Workshops include presentations by: Fallen Fruit Artists David Allen Burns and Austin Young, Dr. Amy Langston from Desert Research Institute, Tiffany Pereira from Desert Research Institute, Devon Young and Peter Worth from Stanford d School, Edward Clapp and Lisa Yokana from Harvard Project Zero, Suzanne Petronzi and Liz Morris from Green Our Planet, Amanda Whitehurst from Arizona State University, Center for Science and the Imagination, Jennifer Moss from Discovery Education, Lindsay McIntosh from Musica Sierra and Museum Educators from the Nevada Museum of Art.

ABOUT THE NV STEAM CONFERENCE

The Nevada Museum of Art, in partnership with the Desert Research Institute, hosts an annual statewide conference to push the boundaries of STEAM Education. Hosting more than 600 registrants from across the Silver State, the NV STEAM Conference is the leading statewide event for exploring ideas and strategies that incorporate Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math into pioneering classroom practices that foster student creativity.

In collaboration with Nevada Department of Education, the NV STEAM Conference inspires innovation through engaging, hands-on workshops and nationally recognized keynote speakers.

Educators can register for FREE for the 2024 NV STEAM Conference at nvsteam.org
Nevada’s K12 educators may also obtain a free membership to the Nevada Museum of Art at <https://www.nevadaart.org/learn/educators/educator-memberships/>

QUESTIONS

For questions contact Megan Bellister | Nell J. Redfield Curator of Learning and Engagement at 775.398.7226 or megan.bellister@nevadaart.org

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Image caption: Fallen Fruit: Monument to Sharing installation, September 1, 2022. Photo by Chris Holloman.

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The Nevada Museum of Art is the only art museum in Nevada accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). A private, nonprofit organization founded in 1931, the statewide institution is supported by its membership as well as sponsorships, gifts and grants. Through its permanent collections, original exhibitions and programming, and E.L. Cord Museum School, the Nevada Museum of Art provides meaningful opportunities for people to engage with a range of art and education experiences. The Museum’s **Center for Art + Environment** is an internationally-recognized research center dedicated to supporting the practice, study, and awareness of creative interactions between people and their environments. The Center houses unique archive materials from more than 1,500 artists working on all seven continents, including Cape Farewell, Michael Heizer, Walter de Maria, Lita Albuquerque, Burning Man, the Center for Land Use

Interpretation, Great Basin Native Artists Archive, Ugo Rondinone's *Seven Magic Mountains*, and Trevor Paglen's *Orbital Reflector*. Learn more at nevadaart.org.

Land Acknowledgement

The Nevada Museum of Art acknowledges the traditional homelands of the *Wa She Shu* (Washoe), *Numu* (Northern Paiute), *Newe* (Western Shoshone), and *Nuwu* (Southern Paiute) people of the Great Basin. This includes the 28 tribal nations that exist as sovereign nations and continue as stewards of this land. We appreciate the opportunity to live and learn on these Indigenous homelands.

The **Desert Research Institute (DRI)** is a recognized world leader in basic and applied interdisciplinary research. Committed to scientific excellence and integrity, DRI faculty, students, and staff have developed scientific knowledge and innovative technologies in research projects around the globe. Since 1959, DRI's research has advanced scientific knowledge, supported Nevada's diversifying economy, provided science-based educational opportunities, and informed policymakers, business leaders, and community members. With campuses in Reno and Las Vegas, DRI is one of eight institutions in the Nevada System of Higher Education. Learn more at dri.edu.