

# Top Ten Reasons Why the Computing Community needs to get involved in National Lab Day

Jan Cuny 2/22/10



10. It's not what you think.



9. You are impressed by the power of social networks.

The screenshot shows the National Lab Day website interface. At the top, the logo reads "National Lab Day BETA" with the tagline "A National Barn-Raising for Hands-On Learning". Navigation tabs include HOME, ABOUT NLD, PROJECTS, RESOURCES, and TESTIMONIALS. A "Login" link is in the top right corner. Below the navigation is a main banner with the text "Bring Exciting Hands-On Learning to Your Area" and "It's more than just a day. We're building a community." The main content area is divided into four sections: TEACHERS (CREATE PROJECT REQUESTS TO FIND RESOURCES. SIGN UP NOW.), SCIENTISTS & TECHIES (WE'LL MATCH YOU TO PROJECTS NEEDING YOUR HELP. SIGN UP NOW.), VOLUNTEERS (NOT A SCIENTIST OR TECHIE BUT STILL WANT TO HELP? SIGN UP NOW.), and ORGANIZATIONS (PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION TO JOIN OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY. SIGN UP NOW.). Below these are two featured projects: "A Walk in The Woods" in Stratford, CT and "Respiratory System Lab" in Seattle, WA, along with a "View a map of all projects" link. A yellow navigation bar contains links for "What is National Lab Day?", "What can I do?", and "Follow us on Twitter". The bottom section, titled "Sponsors", lists logos for NSTA (National Science Teachers Association), ACS (Chemistry for Life), MacArthur Foundation, and JACK D. HIDARY FOUNDATION, along with other smaller logos.

8. Your President encourages you to.

I want to persuade you to spend time in the classroom, talking and showing young people what it is that your work can mean, and what it means to you .... to think about new and creative ways to engage young people in science and engineering ... encourage young people to be makers of things, not just consumers of things.

President Obama April 2009

# 7. It's easy.

Are you a scientist, engineer, technologist, or mathematician? Teachers and students need your expertise! By registering, we can immediately match you to projects in your area where you can make a difference.

## Contact Info

First name\*

Last name\*

Email\*

Confirm Email\*

Password\*

Confirm Password\*

Zip Code\*

Employer

## Professional Organization(s)

Academy of Science - St. Louis  
Acoustical Society of America (ASA)  
Altschuler Institute for R&D Studies  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
American Association of Anatomists  
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education  
American Association of Engineering Societies  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Association of Physics Teachers  
American Association of University Women

Other Professional Organization

## Areas of expertise: (check all that apply) \*

- Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Earth/Environmental Science
- Other
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Technology Education
- Math

Subfield(s) of specialization (separate by commas)

**TED**  I am a member of TED.com

Please describe your educational background [degrees, institutions]

## 21st Century Skills

Share This

### Project Type

In Classroom

### Project Subject

Computer Science

### Project Location

N Brunswick, NJ

### Project Time Period

Ends 3 months from now on Jun 07.

### Project Description

I teach computer applications in the computer lab of a grades 6-8 Middle School in North Brunswick, NJ. After attending an institute at Stockton University this summer, hosted by NJEA, we are trying to incorporate 21st Century skills particularly into our 8th grade curriculum. We are hoping to teach a survey type course to introduce the students to Wikis, Blogs, Digital Storytelling, Podcasting and Webpage design. We would like to use Google Apps - sites and blogger - along with other free online software like Audacity, Animoto, Glogster, etc. I would love to have any professionals who would be interested in sharing their expertise in any of these areas visit our school and work with us and our students. We have PC labs, and any help and advice that you could give us, along with any equipment you could share with us - particularly headphones with microphones that we could use for podcasting - would be greatly appreciated. The students we have in our classes now will leave us in the first week of February and we then start a new group of students who are with us until the end of school in June. We are open to any other suggestions for projects you might have that we could incorporate into our curriculum. I think it would be a fabulous opportunity for our students to see the things that they are learning in action in the real world.

0 of 1 scientist committed

I want to help



Dear Jan C.

We have identified the following as good potential matches for [your profile](#) as a Scientist on [NationalLabDay.org](#). When you click on an item below, you can easily take the next step and discuss your involvement in getting students excited about science.

## Teachers Who Need My Help



[Ruth S.](#)

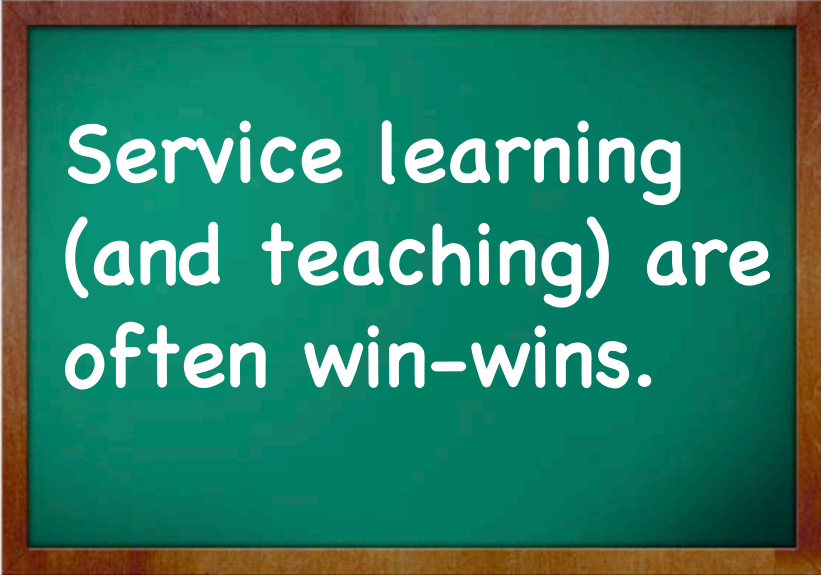
Arlington, VA (3 miles away)  
Science, Earth/Environmental Science  
Ballou Senior High School



[Megan B.](#)

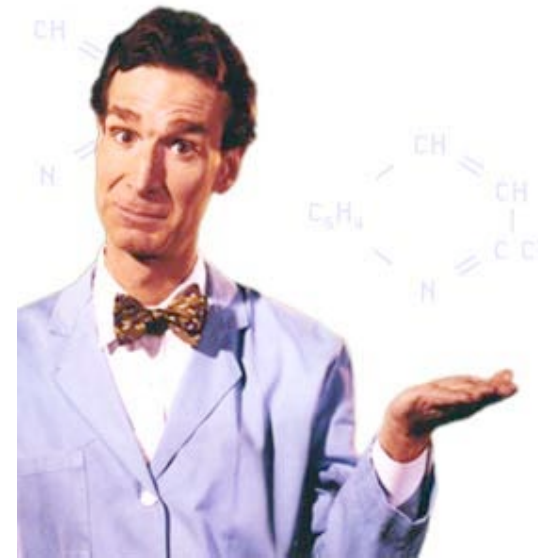
Alexandria, VA (1 mile away)  
Engineering  
Junior Engineering Technical Society

6. It would be good for your students too.

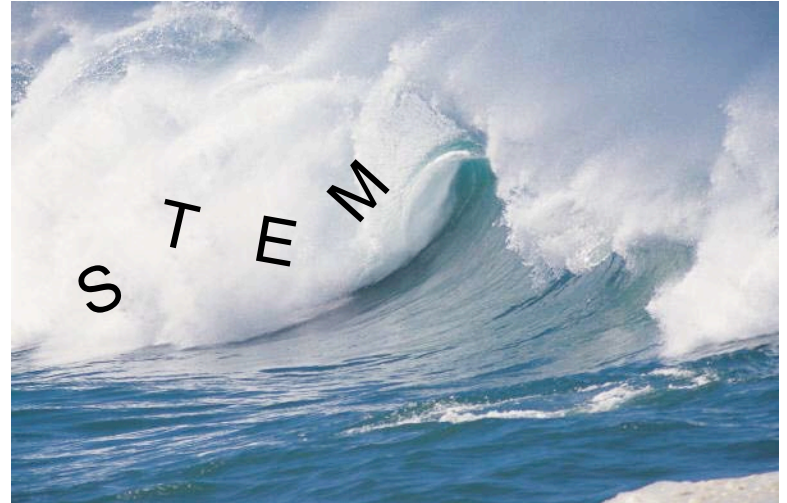


Service learning  
(and teaching) are  
often win-wins.

5. Who else is telling the kids about the magic and beauty of computing?



4. We need to increase awareness of the silent “C” in STEM.





3. We need to build bridges to K-12.



2. You'll have fun.



1. Someone has to introduce all those middle school girls to the new Mattel Computer Engineer Barbie.



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