6 things to know in October 2023

1. **New Blog Post: Piloting Toward Expertise in Science Education**

   Analyzing student work can be an invaluable process for teachers. A new *On the Same Wavelength* blog post provides a sequel to the popular *Student Work is Gold* post, this time sharing how student work can be used to make assessments a better and more equitable measure of students' learning.

   See the NextGenScience October 2023 blog post [here](#).

2. **English is the Go-to Language of Science, But Students Often Do Better When Taught in More Tongues**

   "Increasingly, there are programs teaching science in other tongues. A variety of community-building efforts around the world are now translating scientific content into many languages, so that everyone can learn in their own words. Outreach efforts aim to engage K–12 students and the public. And, so far, the response has been promising."

   See the PNAS article [here](#).
U.S. Teachers Want To Teach More About Sustainability

A global survey in 2023 conducted by Gallup and the Smithsonian Science Education Center shows that U.S. teachers value teaching about sustainability-related areas, such as climate action, clean water, and clean energy, but are less likely to incorporate it into curriculum than educators in other countries. The survey suggests a reason for this might be that U.S. teachers report that they lack support, time, and expertise to do so. These survey findings emphasize the need for improved sustainability education in the U.S. and highlight the importance of cross-disciplinary education in STEM fields to prepare students for a sustainable future.

See the Smithsonian article here.

Encouraging Collaboration With a Scientists Circle

This video demonstrates the use of a collaboration routine called the Scientists Circle. The Scientists Circle routine encourages students to share their ideas as a group, work collaboratively, challenge each other’s ideas, and engage in scientific discussions. The video shows how the routine can create a sense of community and equity in the classroom while promoting active participation from all students.

See the Edutopia video here.

Next Generation Science Standards: Exploring Ten Years of Progress in Science Education

This edLeader panel webinar features four experts reflecting on the impact of the NGSS a decade after the standards were published. The panelists discuss the transformation of K–12 science education, the current state of science assessments, and challenges and opportunities facing the future of science education.

See the recording here.
Recently, the Community for Advancing Discovery Research in Education (CADRE) curated a Rural Education Spotlight to draw attention to active research projects funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) that are dedicated to supporting equitable and high-quality STEM education opportunities to rural students. For example, one of these projects, STEM STRONG (Supporting Teachers in Rural Communities for the Next Generation), seeks to address key challenges facing teachers in small schools and rural communities by leveraging online professional learning and networking opportunities throughout the school year.

Read about the NSF-funded projects to support rural educators here.