ENTHUSE Celebration Awards

SSERC was delighted to host the Scottish ENTHUSE Celebration Awards 2019 [1] at the Engine Shed in Stirling on 14th May 2019. These awards celebrated excellence in STEM education in Primary & Secondary schools, in school leadership and for technicians and support staff. The event allowed SSERC to commend the commitment of the winners to professional learning and the impact that it has had on them, their pupils and their school.

All winners were invited to attend the National ENTHUSE Celebration event at the Royal Society in London in June 2019.

While the highlight of the event was the awarding of prizes, the day also included updates on the opportunities that SSERC supports and facilitates through a range of wider STEM engagement programmes.

Kevin McKeever, Manager of the STEM Ambassador programme in the east of Scotland provided an update, highlighting the wealth of knowledge and experience that is available to schools and community groups through this volunteer programme. It is noteworthy that in the findings of the Education Scotland STEM CLPL Survey Findings (June 2017) [2] this bank of approximately 6000 active individuals are regarded as key providers of professional learning for teachers.

From left to right in picture: Derek Boath, Monifieth High School (winner Excellence in STEM Teaching Secondary), Martin McKenna , Holy Cross Primary School (winner Excellence in STEM Teaching Primary), Angela Barclay, Monifieth High School (winner School Leadership in STEM), Alastair MacGregor CEO SSERC, Karthika Paranthaman, Boroughmuir High School (winner Excellence in STEM Teaching Technician), Mark McShane and Graham Armstrong, Kinross High School (Joint winners School Leadership in STEM), Heather Reid OBE.

In 2018/19 SSERC facilitated 22 STEM Insight placements, allowing teachers and technicians time in industry to gain experience about the world of work and potential employment opportunities that they could then share with pupils in their schools on their return. Such opportunities recognise that those in regular contact with young people can influence subject choices, future study options and career pathways. Whilst in a privileged position to inspire and direct, many recognise they do not always have the appropriate knowledge to do this effectively. Such placements provide the opportunity for educators to increase their own STEM capital. Helen Winton, Head of STEM Engagement SSERC provided an overview of these placements while contributions from Karen Alexander, STEM Manager Dumfries House and Sarah Morgan, Jacob's highlighted the benefits of teacher placements to businesses.

Heather Reid, OBE Meteorologist & Education Consultant provided an inspiring Keynote 'The importance of Excellent STEM Education' in which she highlighted how her passion for physics was kindled by an inspirational teacher. She emphasised how those in the teaching profession can inspire the questioning and inquiry skills in young people, thereby increasing their scientific literacy. She also shared the enjoyment she has had from being involved as a Polar Ambassador over the last 2 years, supporting the Polar Explorer Programme [3]. The build, launch and operation of RRS Sir David Attenborough brings an exciting context to the teaching of STEM subjects. The associated education programme encourages and supports schools that are keen to raise aspirations and attainment >>

in STEM and aims to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. 47 schools across Scotland have benefitted from this opportunity over the last 2 years.

Graeme Rough, Project Manager for the Young STEM Leader Programme provided an update on the development of this exciting opportunity. With a pilot currently underway, the programme will be available to all young people across Scotland in 2020 through school and community groups. The key aim of the Young STEM Leader (YSL) programme will be to facilitate the development of peer STEM role models to inspire more young people to develop an interest in STEM and pursue the study of STEM subjects and relevant future careers.

SSERC are very grateful to the Engine Shed who gifted the use of their facilities for this event. <<

References

[1] https://www.stem.org.uk/enthuse-celebration-awards.

[2] https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/STEMcentralinmotion/2018/08/27/stem-professional-learning-survey-2017/.

[3] https://www.stem.org.uk/welcome-polar-explorer-programme.

Microbiology in Schools Advisory Committee (MiSAC) - 50th Anniversary

To commemorate its 50th anniversary, the Microbiology in Schools Advisory Committee (MiSAC) has produced a series of short illustrated articles, aimed at secondary school teachers and students, but of interest to a wider audience. The MiSAC*matters* Anniversary Articles collection is introduced by a foreword from Sir Paul Nurse FRS and comprises over 30 articles written by leading microbiologists. To learn more about the amazing contributions of microbes to plant and animal health, how we might overcome the mountains of plastic waste or why pandemic 'flu is so deadly, visit www.misac.org.uk now and follow the links to the Anniversary Articles collection. <<