

# STEM MAGNET-IC NEWS

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by Bloomsburg University

VOL. 2, ISSUE 1

FALL 2015

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## Director's Corner



Welcome to the Fall 2015 edition of Bloomsburg University's **STEM Magnet-ic News**; the only e-newsletter with news from the STEM Magnet program and information about the STEM field. In this newsletter you will find information about who is involved with the STEM Magnet program, what exciting things the students in the program are doing, upcoming events, and available resources.

The brainchild of [Bloomsburg Area School District](#), [Central Columbia School District](#), [Berwick Area School District](#), and [Bloomsburg University](#), the STEM Magnet program began in Fall 2013 with its first cohort of juniors from these three school districts. The first year, 19 students entered the program in the engineering track. In 2014, 23 students entered the program within two tracks, engineering and health sciences, and five new school districts were added. This year, we welcome 26 new students to the program and an additional three new school districts to the program to bring the total of school districts to eleven— [Benton Area](#), [Berwick Area](#), [Bloomsburg Area](#), [Central Columbia](#), [Danville Area](#), [Millville](#), [Milton Area](#), [Montgomery Area](#), [Southern Columbia Area](#), [Warrior Run Area](#) School Districts and [Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School](#).

The growth of the program has been great, and we anticipate even more changes in the upcoming year. Look for information soon on a new track and additional school districts who want to offer this opportunity to their students. For what is coming up this year and currently happening right now, check out "Student News" on page four.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about the STEM Magnet program, feel free to contact Dr. Kimberly Bolig, director, at [kbolig@bloomu.edu](mailto:kbolig@bloomu.edu) or by calling (570) 389-4608.

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## Continuing at BU



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While it always feels exotic to strike out on new ventures and try new places, sometimes the **best** option can be found right here in your backyard. Find out why choosing to continue your college career at Bloomsburg University could be the right step for you!

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## Money for College:



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As you are filling out college applications, the question that usually accompanies this process is, "How do we pay for it?" Fortunately for those going into STEM majors there are many scholarships out there to help pay college bills. Check out a sample of scholarships available, including those at BU, before the bills are due.

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## Student News:



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It's hard to believe, but the Fall 2015 semester is almost over. Find out what the STEM Magnet students have been doing during this time and what will be coming up next.

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## STEM Education Center

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400 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, PA 17815

<http://www.bloomu.edu/stem>  
[kbolig@bloomu.edu](mailto:kbolig@bloomu.edu)

## Continuing at Bloomsburg University



**It's that time.** Time to start thinking about what college or university you want to head to after high school. There are so many choices ... 4,726 choices to be exact! They come in all shapes and size—public, private, liberal arts, technological, small, large, research-oriented, or community-oriented. Not to mention they are located all the way from Maine to Hawaii and from Florida to Alaska.

With that many choices, it might feel like striking out on your own at an institution far from home will get you closer to your career goals, but often it's the college right in your backyard that really is the best choice. Many local students think they know all about Bloomsburg University just because it is their local college, but we bet there are some facts and figures that you don't know. So let's play a game of:

### Did you know ..

- ... Bloomsburg University offers 56 undergraduate majors, 51 undergraduate minors, and 21 graduate programs?
- ... the College of Science & Technology at Bloomsburg University has 22 different programs and over 22 different student clubs?
- ... the College of Education offers degrees that can lead to a STEM teaching position (with an anticipated 72,000 positions by 2011)?
- ... BU's speech-language pathology graduate program is ranked among the top programs in the country according to a recent review by [graduateprograms.com](http://graduateprograms.com)?
- ... that the nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer (NRM) in Hartline Science Center is as large as a commercial refrigerator and enables detailed information about molecular structure of samples?
- ... that the Solar Kiosk Monitors on campus, completed in 2013, educate the BU community about solar energy, energy use, and energy-saving strategies?
- ... there are two doctoral programs at BU—Clinical Audiology and Nursing Practice?
- .... the College of Science and Technology building is one of the largest and most modern science buildings in Northeastern PA?
- .... BU undergraduates have the opportunity to pursue academic research with faculty mentors, an opportunity other institutions often reserve for grad students.
- ... BU and Geisinger Medical Center have a strong partnership for nursing students.
- ... the College of Science and Technology programs of study are: Audiology and Speech Pathology, Biology and Allied Health Sciences, Chemistry and Biochemisry, Geography, Compute Science, Digital Forensics, Exercise Science, Environmental/Geographical/Geological Sciences, Instructional Technology, Mathematics, and Physics/Health Physics/Electronics Engineering Technology.
- ... BU has a campus-wide initiative called **Professional U** that combines career services with academic internships, alumni engagement, and professional development to help you build a network and experience for your future job search.
- ...that with over 60,000 alumni, BU has networking opportunities throughout the world and,
- ... through BU there are many opportunities to study abroad in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas?

Lastly, did you know that your money will go further at Bloomsburg University? Tuition, fees, room and board is only \$17,806 for a year making BU one of the least expensive institutions to attend in Pennsylvania. Plus, remember that the courses you are currently taking in the STEM Magnet Program will transfer directly into your education at BU making the cost even less. Finally, BU offers more than \$2 million annually in scholarships and along with a wide variety of financial aid packages.

A beautiful campus, good faculty, great degree programs, low cost, amazing research, internship, and study abroad opportunities, and a strong sense of community that you have already established through the STEM Magnet Program ... these are things you will not find at any other college you visit. So as you start thinking about your educational future, make sure to put Bloomsburg University on the top of your list. It's a great place to continue to BU!

Oh, and if you have already decided this is the place for you, don't forget to ask the STEM director for the code to have your application fee waived!

## Money for College



**Filling out college applications**, writing essays, and taking the SATs can take a lot of time and money, but it is only the beginning of a four-year journey. As you start on the steps of your next adventure, planning needs to be more than just where to go to college; it needs to include how to pay for it. While it is great if your grandparents left

you a college fund to pay for your college education (and please **do not** spend it like the [student who was just recently in the news for blowing \\$90,000](#) in three years!), most college students do not have that luxury and turn to scholarships and loans to pay for the next four years. Before you make any decisions on using loans to pay for your college education, make sure to check out the scholarships (in other words, **FREE** money) that are available to you. Because there is a real need for employees in the STEM field, you will find there are a plethora of scholarships available to you ... you just need to find them and apply by their deadlines. To help start your scholarship search, here are some suggestions:

### Online Resource Sites to Find Scholarships:

**Fastweb:** Leading online resource in finding scholarships. Offers targeted scholarships, college search, financial aid information, and career advice.

**Cappex:** College decision headquarters that helps with college search, college reviews, and finding scholarships.

**Scholarships.com:** Search for scholarships, grants, loans, colleges and much more.

### Individual STEM Scholarships:

**Bloomsburg University scholarships:** A list of the scholarships that are awarded for those students who are attending Bloomsburg University. Please note that the deadline to apply is February 6.

**AAE International Competitive Scholarships:** \$2,000 - \$8,000 academic scholarships to full-time students pursuing a related degree in engineering, construction management, building construction, computer sciences, business, quantity surveying, information technology, etc. Deadline is February 15.

**Society of Women Engineers Lehigh Valley Section:** award to women graduating from area high schools in more than 20 counties in PA and enrolling in an engineering program in the fall. Deadline is February 9.

**PA State System of Higher Education Foundation Inc:** Various scholarship programs that supports students attending any of the 14 PASSHE universities. Over the past three years, \$1 million has been awarded in total scholarships.

**Society of Women Engineers**—for women who pursue a career in engineering, engineering technology and computer science. \$1,000—\$20,000 each. Deadline May 15.

**Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Scholarships:** More than \$2 million in scholarships for Hispanic college students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and math. Applications must be post-marked by May 1st.

**American Nuclear Society Incoming Freshman Scholarship:** Awarded to graduating high school seniors who have enrolled, full-time, in college courses and are pursuing a degree in nuclear engineering or have the intent to pursue a degree in nuclear engineering. Deadline is April 1.

**Go College:** Offers suggestions for scholarships in a variety of health sciences fields including nursing, biomedical studies, pharmaceutical science, dental medicine, public health, and physical therapy. Deadlines vary.

**Cognizant Making the Future Scholarship Program:** \$5,000 scholarships for students pursuing careers in a STEM field. Must be eligible to enroll or be currently enrolled at a two- or four-year accredited college or university. Deadline is March 31.

## From Our Students



**It's hard to believe** that the Fall 2015 semester has only four weeks left in it! So much has happened since it began on Monday, August 24. Here is a short synopsis of what the STEM Magnet students have been doing on Bloomsburg's campus.

The senior students in the program have been busy taking a variety of courses including pre-calculus, calculus 1, calculus 2, statistics, chemistry, biology, and physics. We are currently in the process of scheduling their spring courses .. their final courses for the STEM Magnet program that will conclude in May 2016. To commemorate this proud achievement, we will again host a STEM Magnet Graduation Reception. More information about the reception will be found in the next newsletter.

Our juniors in the program have been just as active. Those in the health sciences track have been taking courses in visual basics and medical ethics. The engineering track students are working through courses in Java and cryptology. Both tracks are finding their courses interesting and challenging. For support, juniors have study periods three days a week. During these study periods, their faculty either stop by the room or have available office hours to offer assistance. In addition, the program has tutors who are available to tutor students with Java and math.

The study periods have also offered juniors an opportunity to listen to speakers and attend programs at Bloomsburg University. To date, Dr. Scott Inch from the College of Science and Technology (COST) came to discuss careers in digital forensics and students were able to attend COST's Career Day on Friday, October 16. We are also in the process of planning a trip again to *Surgery Live!* at the Whitaker Science Center in the spring. The addition of this programming, along with the study periods this semester, was requested by the school districts and has definitely been an improvement to the program.

On Tuesday, November 24, the STEM Magnet students will have a break from the campus as it is Reading Day when no classes are held. Thanksgiving Break is from Wednesday, November 25 through Friday, November 27, and classes will resume on Monday, November 30 which will be the last week of classes. Finals will begin on Monday, December 7 and run through Friday, December 11. Due to the limited availability of rooms on campus finals, the finals for the STEM Magnet students will not necessarily be during the regular 12noon –2pm period. School districts have been notified of these changes.

During the winter break from classes, seniors will have the opportunity to either take a winter course or complete an independent study in their career field. As part of the independent study, seniors will work with faculty to research their career area and create STEM education presentations that they can give to middle school students in the area school districts.

First-year STEM Magnet students will get a very hands-on Winter Break Program engaging in three weeks of activities, workshops, training, externships, and networking with professional mentors. All students will be involved in a mini STEM competition by working in teams on projects for part of the break. These projects will be presented the last day of the break to a panel of professional mentors with the winner invited to continue to compete in the PA Governor's annual STEM Competition. The competition will be held regionally with the winners of the regional competition competing at the state level for scholarship money.

Students in the Engineering Track will be participate in externships with regional industries during the second week of January. (Externships are short-term experiential learning opportunities that offer the chance to job shadow professionals and participate in short, hands-on projects.) In the meantime, Health Science Track will be working with the faculty from the Nursing Department on being trained in CPR and working in the Simulated Learning Lab.

As you can see, the STEM Magnet Program has been and will continue to have a lot happening along with the college courses and credits that the students are receiving. The 26 juniors and 21 seniors who are participating are involved in challenging and rewarding work that will make them competitive at the college level. But don't just take our word for it; here are some thoughts about the program from one of our 2015 graduates from the program:

*"I am very grateful to have been part of the 1<sup>st</sup> year STEM Magnet Program. I don't believe that I could've got the ACT scores or acceptances to the college that I did without the guidance and academics I was provided with. Because of STEM, I feel very prepared to move forward in my academic career."*

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