

**Western Conference on Science Education**  
**July 7 – 10, 2015**  
**Call for Proposals**

**“Gather + Create + Improve”**

In 2015, the third iteration of the Western Conference will borrow the above tagline from our local makerspace, UnLondon’s UnLab, to inspire an event that will enliven traditional post-secondary education with the highly interdisciplinary, sleeves-rolled-up problem-solving ethos of the Maker movement. In what ways are you or your students Makers? In what ways do your collaborative innovations make the world a better place?

The Maker movement showcases the essential role of "hacking" as a kind of generative vandalism that deconstructs everyday objects, ideas and processes in order to revision, repurpose, recombine and rebuild their essential elements into novel responses to problems. What are your favourite educational hacks? How do you or your students reimagine labs, lectures, courses, programs, edutech as fresh approaches to emerging challenges?

Western University in London Ontario will, once again, host this unique conference that gathers passionate faculty, students and educational staff across disciplines to focus on creative improvements in post-secondary science education. Although issues in Canadian science will be highlighted, the conference welcomes colleagues working outside the country or outside the traditional disciplines of science.

The 2015 WCSE will be sparked by the provocative ideas of some of North America’s pre-eminent science educators and fueled by the inspiring work of teaching and research faculty, students, librarians and other science education professionals from colleges and universities across the country.

We are excited to welcome four dynamic plenary speakers:

**Dr. Kylie Pepler**, (Indiana University, Bloomington IN)  
Director of Creativity Labs  
*“Making in Higher Education”*

**Dr. Kimberly Tanner**, (San Francisco State University, San Francisco CA)  
Director of SEPAL: Science Education Partnership and Assessment Laboratory  
*“Thinking about Learning as Changing the Brain”*

**Dr. Simon Bates**, (University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC)  
Professor of Teaching, Physics and Astronomy  
*“Strategies for Engagement”*

**Dr. Christopher Charles**  
President, Canada, International Federation of Medical Students  
Inventor of Lucky Iron Fish.  
*“Education for Innovation”*

## “Gather + Create + Improve”

This Conference Theme offers a multi-faceted lens with which conference participants can examine a wide diversity of shared experience, innovation and research on current issues in post-secondary science education. Although any one of the ideas Gather, Create or Improve may be individually relevant to the work you and your students do, they are particularly synergistic when brought together in any given learning environment.

You could present a completed body of work or you might offer an in-progress report on a project for comment and discussion with more experienced peers. Collaborative work with undergraduate or graduate students is particularly welcome.

The WCSE 2015 Program will feature 30 min. Presentations and 80 min. Workshops in addition to Posters and Panel discussions. Feedback from previous conferences has encouraged us to retain and reformat the 14 min “Short and Tweets”.

New for 2015 will be a 3M Micro Mentoring Program that will provide opportunities for you to spend a significant amount of quality time in consultation with a 3M Fellow from a STEM discipline. We are also excited to sponsor an *IgniteWCSE* event to kick everything off on Tuesday evening and an EduTech Test Kitchen where you can play all week.

**While we appreciate receiving submissions by Monday, March 9, 2015, we also appreciate that this deadline might not work for particular colleagues in particular circumstances. Just contact us and we will work out a more generative timeline.**

Find Submission Guidelines and other information at: [www.thewesternconference.ca](http://www.thewesternconference.ca)

Registration will be available in April. Early Registration fees will be under \$250. To receive direct notification of future updates, subscribe to our Twitter feed @WestConf. Or, send a message to [westernconference@uwo.ca](mailto:westernconference@uwo.ca) with “Update Me” in the subject line.

Please help us to gather more improvements to science education by forwarding this announcement to interested colleagues.

We look forward to meeting with you again soon.

*WCSE 2015 Organizing Committee*