Program: Inspiring the Next Generation; Revolutionizing STEM Education
Speaker: Kurt Williams, Deputy Director/COO, Link Observatory Space Science Institute
Introduced by: Jeff Rasley ***Attendance:*** 100
Guests: Howard Creveling, Susie Howard, Peter Klein
Scribe: Jim Dashiell
Editor: Jim Willson

Today's message, delivered by Kurt Williams because the originally scheduled speaker, Greg McCauley, was busy becoming a grandfather, was from the Link Observatory Space Science Institute and titled…….. Revolutionizing STEM Education

It was mentioned that science education has been diminished of late in middle and high schools in favor of other curriculum choices. The Link Observatory programs are aimed at teaching the educators so they can better teach and become aware of the many programs that are available to them just for the asking. The Observatory works with the Children's Museum, the State Fair, Conner Prairie, Indiana University and NASA.

The program called Discover Space has many facets readily available to STEM educators or other teachers. The broad knowledge of NASA is available for easy access, if you know where to look, and includes the rocket research at Marshall testing grounds, personnel in Houston, robotics in SoCal, scheduling at Kennedy Space center etc. The Discover Space program makes for much easier use for teachers by putting all the knowledge access in one place. Every month something new, easy to find and easy to use becomes available. Go to WWW.NASA.GOV to research these programs. There is a new program every month.

DISCOVER SPACE CLASSROOM
This includes a series of educational tools for the middle school and high school levels. These easy to use tools facilitate science education while minimizing teacher time expenditures. An example is the mission to the Jovian moon Europa. It will make many passes and gathering much data, some of which might hopefully contain information regarding the origin of life.

DISCOVER SPACE LIVE
NASA is considering giving this program to the Link Observatory for further development. This also includes the search for exoplanets.

DISCOVER SPACE SCIENCE
This program has two parts, both exploring space and also analyzing data. It has an amazing ability to share the information gathered over 50 years with anybody, even students. While all schools must teach science in Indiana it is only tested in fourth and sixth grades. It was mentioned again that the Link Observatory provides readily available access to a great wealth of educational programs.

Kurt Williams

[**Editor's Note –** To see a demo of the type of information on the Discover Space website:]

1. Go to www.linkobservatory.org/discoverspace Put this directly in your browser window – do not allow Google or any other search engine to get involved – they will NOT get you to the right page.
2. Under the second to the last bold heading is a link titled "Review a demonstration" Click on it.
3. This will take you to the program. Choose "Middle School" or "High School"
4. Assuming you DON"T want the Educator Guide or Student Worksheets, click on Step 3 to watch video. If you do want the Guide and/or the Worksheets, click on Step 1 or 2.
5. A simple method for any Scientech Member to gain access to the entire library for $10 per year is being developed and will be communicated in next week's Newsletter.