STEM Slam  **Location:** Herter Hall 231, UMass Amherst  **Date:** Friday April 15th, 2:00-4:00pm

STEM Slam is a science communication speaking competition where people in the STEM field have to explain a STEM related topic to a general audience in 3 minutes or less. The participants will only be allowed to use what they can physically bring on stage, and no power points or slide presentations will be allowed. Students will be judged on the content, clarity, and charisma of their talk (more judging criteria is below).

**Eligibility:**

Any student grad or undergrad in a STEM field at UMass Amherst

**Rules For STEM Slam:**

1. No PowerPoint Presentations
2. Contestants are limited to 3 minutes for their talk
3. You can only use what you can physically bring with you on stage to present in the competition

**Prizes:** The prizes will be valued at the following

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<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Prize</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audience choice</td>
<td>$50</td>
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**Sign up link:**

Below is the link to the Google Document to **Sign up** for the competition:

goo.gl/Up4xPw

You can also sign up at our Facebook with the Sign up button:

https://www.facebook.com/STEMSlam/

Save the date by looking for the event “STEM Slam at UMass Amherst” and invite your friends! You can also find it using the following QR code:

**Helpful Links, Tips and Information:**

Within this document you will find links that provide example talks, helpful tips for public speaking and judging criteria.

**Helpful Documents/ Tips for Presenting**

- 9 Public Speaking Lessons From the World's Greatest TED Talks:  
• Body language is a critical part of any public speaking and will make your talk all that more effective. Here are some tips on Body Language:
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwP1ol-v8zM

• Think of your talk as a story. Somebody wants to accomplish something, but there is an obstacle in the way. Effective story telling is a great way to engage your public and spark their curiosity. Here are some tips on story telling for public speaking:
  http://www.sparkol.com/engage/8-classic-storytelling-techniques-for-engaging-presentations/

• A common misconception is that public speaking has to be different than having a conversation. This is false, it is about being authentic and effective in your communication.
  http://www.gingerpublicspeaking.com/communication-lie/

• It’s normal to get nervous about public speaking. Here are some tips to help deal with this: https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/communication-success/201311/5-tips-reduce-the-fear-public-speaking

Examples of 3-minute STEM presentations

• Destenie Nock talks about wind and storage on the power grid:
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qel7OR2QFh4

• Emer Maguire discusses the science behind kissing:
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppLMEgaj9eA

Judging of the Event:

Judges:

There will be 3 judges for this event. There will be one graduate student, one STEM Faculty member, and one person who is not from a STEM background.

Judging Criteria:

Contestants will be evaluated based off of the following three categories:

1. Content - Is there science in your talk. Did the audience learn something?
   i. Effectiveness is measured in part by the audience’s reception of the speech, but a large part is your subjective judgment of how the speech came across. You should ask yourself such questions as “Did I learn anything from the talk? “ “Did
the speaker seem knowledgeable?” “Was the audience’s interest held by the speaker?”

ii. Speech development is the way the speaker puts ideas together so the audience can understand them. The speech is structured around a purpose, and this structure must include an opening, body and conclusion. A good speech immediately engages the audience’s attention and then moves forward toward a significant conclusion. This development of the speech structure is supported by relevant examples and illustrations, facts and figures, delivered with such smoothness that they blend into the framework of the speech to present the audience with a unified whole.

2. Clarity - Was it easy to understand your talk?
   i. Language is the choice of words that relate to the speech purpose and to the particular audience hearing the speech. Language should promote clear understanding of thoughts and should fit the occasion precisely.
   ii. Is your talk easy to understand? Was there too much jargon?

3. Charisma - Are you enthusiastic about your topic? (Body language, voice, passion)
   i. Physical: presentation of a speech carries part of the responsibility for effective communication. Body language should support points through gestures, expressions and body positioning.