**Virtual STEM Connect Conference to be Held on November 17 for All North Carolina Teachers**

*Renowned Professor Dr. Temple Grandin Among Presenters at Free Conference*

**Raleigh, NC, November 13, 2020** – All North Carolina teachers are invited to attend the free virtual STEM Connect Conference that will be held from Noon - 6:00 p.m. on November 17, 2020. The conference is being hosted by the North Carolina Business Committee for Education (NCBCE) as part of the [NC Student Connect](https://governor.nc.gov/news/governor-cooper-announces-nearly-40-million-connect-students-and-communities-high-speed) initiative and in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and [Hometown Strong](https://hometownstrong.nc.gov/). Through the conference, educators will be able to learn best practices from businesses and other teachers on how to incorporate STEM into the virtual classroom.

 “There’s no doubt that STEM subjects can be challenging to teach in a virtual format,” said Caroline Sullivan, Executive Director, NCBCE. “This conference will provide tips, ideas and resources so that STEM educators will be better equipped to engage and support their students in the best way possible.”

Renowned Colorado State University Professor of Animal Science Dr. Temple Grandin will be among the presenters with a session beginning at Noon. As an expert on animal behavior as well as an autism spokesperson, her presentation will focus on how the world needs all kinds of minds and how to determine the types of thinkers in children.

Other presentations will focus on biotech, environmental science, digital arts and media, coding, genetics, drones, citizen science, identifying bias and misinformation in resources, STEAM prototype and design, workplace readiness and much more. Sessions will be aligned to CTE and STEM standards at the middle and high school level.

STEM Connect is the second in a series of three virtual remote learning conferences held this fall through Governor Roy Cooper’s [NC Student Connect](https://governor.nc.gov/news/governor-cooper-announces-nearly-40-million-connect-students-and-communities-high-speed) initiative. The first was the REAL 2.0 Conference, which provided educators with remote learning professional development and helped parents navigate technology and new ways of learning. The Cultural Arts LIVE Conference will be held on December 15-16, 2020 for arts and humanities educators and their classes.

Anyone wishing to attend STEM Connect can register at [ncstudentconnect.com](https://www.ncstudentconnect.com/). All of the sessions will be recorded and can be accessed two weeks after the conference. Educators and parents can also view the recordings from the REAL 2.0 Conference at the same link.

Images, possible messaging and hashtags to use for promoting STEM Connect can be found in the [social media kit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jszFThmN3T3uFt5tz8P2qdesxn-x-G09Z8WoVX4fZ70/edit?usp=sharing).

The North Carolina Business Committee for Education is a nonprofit that operates out of the Office of the Governor. Its Board of Directors and membership are business leaders from across North Carolina. NCBCE’s work, along with that of the Remote Learning Working Group and [Hometown Strong](https://hometownstrong.nc.gov/), informed the statewide NC Student Connect program that Governor Cooper launched in September. NC Student Connect is investing $40 million to address internet connectivity gaps that are a barrier to remote learning for many North Carolina students and support professional development for educators and digital inclusion efforts for parents and caregivers.

For more information about NCBCE and its ongoing work to support education in North Carolina, visit [www.ncbce.org](http://www.ncbce.org).

**About the North Carolina Business Committee for Education (NCBCE)**

The North Carolina Business Committee for Education is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that operates out of the Office of the Governor. Its Board of Directors and membership are business leaders from across North Carolina. NCBCE is the leadership organization that connects businesses, educators, students and policy makers to support workforce development ensuring NC has a vibrant economy.

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