***Announcing the 2016 MITS***

***Professional Development Seminar Series!***

**March 17th and April 28th 2016**

Join the Museum Institute for Teaching Science for a great professional development opportunity! ***Professional Development Seminars***are full day seminars divided into 2 sessions – a scientific, content-based presentation and a skill-based, hands-on session. Come to one or more!

**March 17th**

***Guided by Curiosity: The Practice of Asking Questions and Defining Problems***

*Karen Worth, MS, Chair of Elementary Education, Wheelock College and Senior Research Scientist, Education Development Center (EDC)*

How can we inspire learners to be curious about the world around them? And how can we collect and refine the questions that naturally bubble up? What’s the difference between testable and non-testable questions, and when is each appropriate? When should we be asking questions and when should we be designing problems? How can we make space for questions and problems throughout our programs and exhibits? What skills can we expect from different age groups as they progress? And how does asking questions lead to involvement in other practices? Join Karen Worth as she helps us answer these questions as well as a few of our own.

***Now We’re Cooking with STEAM***

*Dan Souza, Test Cook, America’s Test Kitchen and Senior Editor, Cook’s Illustrated*

The world of food tends to straddle the border between science and art. A cook needs to be fluent in the language of chemistry as well as creativity. But what do the science and engineering practices look like when they move into a kitchen? Join Dan Souza as he reveals how he plans and carries out food investigations at America’s Test Kitchen, starting with the questions and observations that spark a new project. You’ll come away with an approachable picture of science practices at work, as well as new ideas for infusing creativity and personal interests into STEM programming at your institution.

**April 28th**

***Finding Our Faults: Investigating Earthquakes Close to Home and Around the World***

*Marilyn Bibeau, BS, Weston Observatory and Educational Outreach Administrator, Boston College Educational Seismology Project*

Massachusetts might be shaking more than you realize! Seismographs within the state can record earthquakes that occur across the globe. Learners can use seismographs to connect their observations to a deeper understanding of Earth Science. Find out how the Boston College Educational Seismology Project uses seismology as a jumping-off point for inquiry-based investigations and experience how scientists investigate the natural world. You will participate in seismic emergency management exercises and seismic labs. Be sure to ask Marilyn about the opportunity to establish a seismograph in your own institution.

***Science Is Knowing What to Do When You Don’t Have an Answer: Planning and Carrying Out Investigations***

*Don DeRosa, EdD, Clinical Associate Professor of Education, Boston University*

The unknown can be intimidating. However, to push our collective understanding forward, scientists often find themselves on the line between known and unknown. With the practice of planning and carrying out investigations, learners have the chance to become scientists and examine the world around them. Join Dr. Don DeRosa as he explores how we can support learners as they progress through levels of complexity and independence. We will also discuss how learners’ own interests and curiosities can be balanced with producing data that is scientifically valid. Dr. DeRosa will present tools to support young scientists and help you make the unknown enticing mysteries through your programs and exhibits.



**Dates:** March 17, April 28

**Time:** 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

**Location:** Clark University, Worcester, MA

**Cost:** $40 per seminar; Any 3 seminars $105; all 4 seminars $130

Registration fee includes lunch

**Visit www.mits.org for more information!**