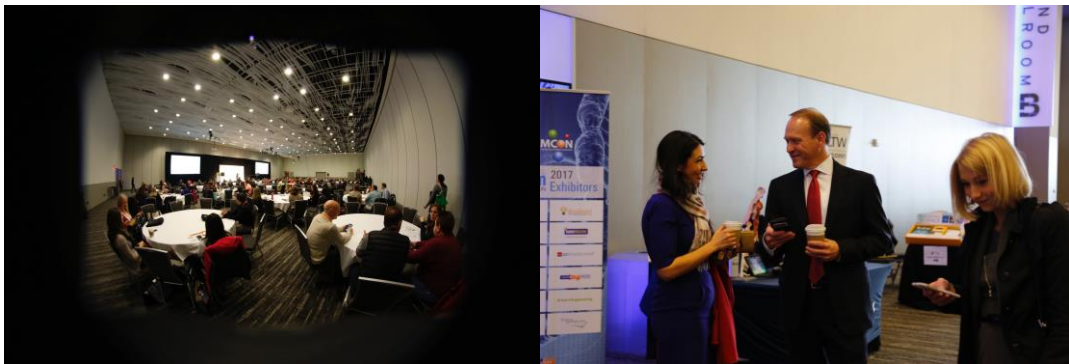


# PRESS RELEASE

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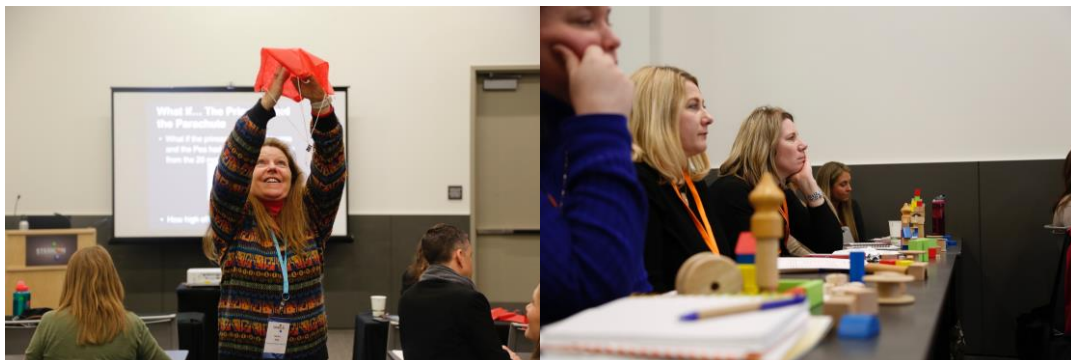
## Fourth Annual STEMCON Encourages Educators to “Build Better STEM Education” in the U.S.



**Cleveland, OH:** On April 29th, 2017 Concept Schools held the 4th annual STEMCON, a one-day professional development conference for K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics educators. The conference drew in over 300 attendees and included 40 breakout sessions, two keynote talks, as well as networking opportunities. The keynotes were given by President of Project Lead The Way (PLTW), Vince Bertram (pictured above right) and Dr. David Burns, Director of Education at Battelle Memorial.

STEMCON invited attendees to listen, learn and build through conference tracks such as:

- The Early Years: Laying the Foundation for STEM Thinking
- Start Diversifying the STEM Pipeline Today
- Effective Use of Project-Based Learning
- The Role of “A” in a Well-Rounded STEAM Education



Educators attended breakout sessions, built satellites and parachutes together, and collectively contributed to the goal of building a better STEM education that prepares their students for careers in STEM. Brittany Oliver, an Early Childhood Education Specialist with Fight for Children (Washington, D.C.), saw teachers working together at the conference to build a STEM education that builds students up so that “...as they grow up, they’ll be scientists.”



In addition to providing a day for professional development, STEMCON celebrates distinguished individuals and teams for their contributions to STEM Education. Three attending guests were presented awards for their contributions to the STEM community:

#### Excellence in STEM Education

Chad Pavlekovich, Jenny Bernardi, and Jeremiah Mowen  
Salisbury Middle School, Salisbury, MD

#### STEM Leader of the Year

Dr. Kristy Tokarczyk  
Assistant Dean for Student Services  
Cleveland State University

STEAM Award: Orange High School Band  
Pepper Pike, OH

The awards were given by friend and partner of STEMCON, Dr. Meredith Bond, the Dean of College of Sciences and Health Professions from Cleveland State University.

After four successful years of STEMCON in Cleveland, OH, the conference will be relocating to Chicago in 2018. Information regarding the new venue and the call for presentations can be found at [www.stemcon.net](http://www.stemcon.net)

