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**Introducing STEM CON 2016
First-Ever Student-Driven COMIC CON Event in Denver**

May 7, 2016 at the STEM School and Academy in Highlands Ranch

**COSPLAY Contest for Ages 5-18
Free Comic Books to First 200 Kids!**

The STEM School and Academy will host “STEM CON 2016” on Saturday May 7th from 10am-4pm, marketing the first ever student-driven scholastic comic con event in Denver. The goal is to reach out to the community by creating a youth-based graphic literature event, to inspire learning through comics and graphic novels, in order to build character to prepare student for success in their future. The comic genre has always strongly encouraged reading, art, and a powerful imagination, incorporating STEM Schools philosophies that branch into technologies, mathematics, and engineering making them relevant to real world contexts.

STEM CON began when 8th grader, Audrey Glenn, wanted to raise funds for the Literary Magazine Club at the school. She had basically already committed her mother to the event without asking first. Luckily her mom, Krishna Glenn, was a good sport and jumped right in. She got her good friend Janelle Constable to join her. With their joint experience in community outreach events, they set out to accomplish the first annual STEM comic con. Realizing this was a much larger endeavor to be limited to just one school club they encompassed the entire school. STEM's executive director, Dr. Penelope Eucker was an immediate supporter and the entire STEM faculty followed suite. Rob Rix, one of the STEM art teachers, volunteered to be the faculty head for the event. After several months of configuring the strategy to go about offering attendance to the public and making it a true community treat, a date was given and the ball started rolling.

STEM CON will encompass students displaying their talents alongside experienced artists and vendors. Jumping in to support this academic extravaganza are literary groups including Douglas County Public Libraries, Tattered Cover Books, best-selling and award winning young adult author Lisa Tawn Bergren, Evangeline Denmark with her steampunk novel Curio, STEM teacher and author Josh Leckman, and STEM Literary Magazine with a limited edition Nerd Pop Culture issue. Also onboard are some of Colorado's most notable comic con artists including Stan Yan, Kitty Krell, Monte Moore of Maverick Arts, Jackman Brothers Entertainment and more. The event would not be complete without a choreographed superhero fight and free comic books!

Student entrepreneurs and professional vendors will feature comic books and sketched art, fandom jewelry, anime and game booths with popular pop culture and television, wind chimes made by physics students, handcrafted wands, comic inspired baked goods, and so much more. Additionally, guests will see STEM's very own spin on the con with robot exhibits, music workshops, presentations, and competitions.

“Innovative learning goes hand-in-hand with the comic-genre and we are excited for this upcoming event,” says Dr. Penny Eucker, Executive Director of the STEM School and Academy in Highlands Ranch. “The imagination of these student is contagious and combining it with their love of physics, math, programming and literature brings the learning full circle,” she adds.

The Scoop:

WHEN: Saturday May 7th, from 10am-4pm

WHERE: STEM School and Academy, 8773 S Ridgeline Blvd, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

TICKETS AND INFO: tickets are \$6 and are on sale now at www.stemcon2016.com

JOIN US and BECOME A VENDOR: To participate, please email: info@stemcon2016.com

SUPPORTERS for STEMCON include: Indulge Restaurant, Monte Moore Mav Art, Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum, Diamond Comic Distributors, and Enchanted Grounds