

Science Spectacular's focus is to engage, excite young and old

Chandler's three-day Science Spectacular proudly returns Feb. 13, 15 and 16.

The festival brings together high-tech companies, small businesses, school districts and non-profit agencies to celebrate science and innovation. Based on last year's success, it will also excite the youth of the community about the study of science.



My Turn

RICK HEUMANN

students about their achievements and discoveries.

Chandler's Science Spectacular is

scheduled in conjunction with the ArizonaSciTech Festival during the month of February. It will start at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday with a Tech Crawl at Chandler's Innovations Incubator; and then on to Intel, Microchip and Air Products.

The public will have the rare opportunity to tour these facilities and interact with staff regarding the work being performed at each site. It is a valuable experience for young people and adults to gain a better understanding of the job opportunities and important work being done in the community.

Maps, schedules and detailed program descriptions for this event can be found online at www.chandleraz.gov/science.

Then, from 6-10 p.m. next Friday, the program continues with a Night of Art and Science in downtown Chandler. The event is an extension of the regularly scheduled monthly Art Walk. It will feature artistic displays and interactive

performances specifically related to the theme of science.

This year, 48 West also is sponsoring a science and technology conference during the day as well as country-music performances and food in the evening. The consortium brings together Arizona tech companies, new media, great food and local music to spark conversation and creativity, and we are excited to have them on board.

Specific information about next Friday night's event can be found at www.downtownchandler.org and www.48-west.com.

Chandler's Science Spectacular will culminate on Saturday, Feb. 16 with family-friendly activities along Commonwealth Avenue in the downtown area. Starting at 10:30 a.m., dozens of Chandler technology companies and vendors, including SRP, the University of Arizona, Chandler Police Department and Chandler Gilbert Community

College, will provide hands-on activities. Chandler Unified School District students will showcase outstanding science projects at the nearby Community Center.

The three-day Chandler Science Spectacular is a perfect reflection of the public-private collaboration that exists in our community. My thanks to the educators, businesses, city staff and community leaders who have worked together for the second consecutive year as part of my Education Coalition to package this unique event for the benefit of our community.

I hope you all enjoy the festivities and help us promote and celebrate science and education throughout our city and the region.

Rick Heumann is a Chandler City Councilmember.