You are cordially invited to attend

**Wednesday, April 25, 2018**
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
133F Erickson Hall
Michigan State University

**Special presentation**
CREATE for STEM Institute visiting scholar

**Dr. Regina Soobard**
University of Tartu, Estonia

**Research in science education – experiences from University of Tartu Science Education Centre**

**Abstract:**
Estonia has competence-based curriculum since 2011 and Estonian 15-year old students have high overall scores in the science component of the PISA study. At the same time, they are not interested in science-related careers and relatively few students achieve the highest two levels of scientific literacy. To investigate situation in high school (grade 10-12), we developed a test for scientific literacy and results showed – in the end of grade 12, few students demonstrated competences needed in higher scientific literacy levels. We have found that there is a need to provide students with opportunities to engage more deeply and meaningfully within their science learning content and competence development. All this can be linked with higher science-related career awareness through developing context-based scenarios.

**Regina Soobard** earned Ph.D. in science education in University of Tartu on gymnasium students’ scientific literacy development based on determinants of cognitive learning outcomes and self-perception in 2015. She is working as a research fellow of science education in the Centre of Science Education in the University of Tartu. She is also involved in teaching at MSc level and holding the position of director of the gymnasium science teacher programme and co-supervising PhD students in science education and in educational sciences. She got awarded BAFF scholarship for research in Michigan State University in USA. Since 2015, Regina is science expert in OECD PISA study in Estonia.