

STEM Action Center
Board Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2017

Call to Order

Chair Dave Hill called to order the regular meeting of the STEM Action Center at 1:01 pm on December 5, 2017 at WW-17, Boise Capital.

Roll Call

Chair Hill conducted roll call. The following were present:
Dee Mooney, Megan Ronk, Melinda Smyser, Alison Lark (for Lorna Finman)
Von Hansen and Amy Lientz (for Mark Peters) were on the conference line.

STEM Center Staff: Angela Hemingway, Erica Compton, Finia Dinh, Crispin Gravatt, Cory Compton, Stephanie Lee, Maureen O'Toole, Kaitlin Maguire and Brooke Lacey

Absent: Lorna Finman, Mark Peters and Tim McMurtrey

Past Board Minutes Approved – No comments, minutes therefore approved for August 15, 2017 meeting.

Welcome and Introductions

STEM AC Updates:

1. FY 18 STEM Schools Designation Legislation Update

Angela provided the Board with an update on the FY18 STEM Schools Designation. It is a slow moving process. December 11th there will be a meeting at the State Department of Education (SDE) to draft a rubric on steps in becoming a designated STEM School. This is an important meeting with 20 + interested in being part of the committee from higher education, educators, principals, administrators and some STEM school representatives. Angela will share the rubric at the January STEM AC Board Meeting.

2. Legislative Support-Funding Unspent

Angela asked for support from the Board in answering questions from Legislators regarding funds not expended during FY17. She outlined in detail why money was not expended and how program money will be used in FY18 and provided a summary written report to give the Board with information they can share if asked. Megan suggested that Angela write a forward to explain how the STEM AC provides support for STEM education and opportunities across the State. Angela will prepare talking points for Board member use.

3. FY19 Budget Request

Angela reported that the FY19 budget request was submitted and the STEM AC team will know if it aligns with Governor's budget on 12/20. Angela provided a brief overview of what was included in the requested budget. No discussion.

4. STEM AC Foundation Update

- a. Angela asked Maureen O'Toole to provide status of the Foundation. She reported that the Foundation is up and running and ready to accept donations.

- b. The Foundation has 4 board members. The by-laws state that the Foundation can have 15 members. Maureen encouraged STEM AC board members to provide her with names or introductions to fill out the Foundation Board. The importance of diversity was discussed. It was mentioned that it was important to attract members across the state representing regional issues. This will provide the members of the Foundation Board with insights of the varied issues concerning STEM education in both rural and urban areas.
- c. Maureen discussed the difference between the STEM AC Tax Credit and a tax donation. Angela shared a one page marketing piece to use to explain the difference. STEM AC team members and Maureen are working on additional marketing to clearly outline the difference and benefits to the donor so board and staff can easily explain to potential donors.

5. Goal #1 Coordinate and facilitate implementation of STEM programs throughout Idaho

- a. Mentorship Portal
 - i. Angela shared the Mentorship Portal one page marketing piece in draft form. The portal launched 3 weeks ago and has attracted students and teachers.
 - ii. Angela asked the Board to think about people who could be mentors and encourage them to sign up on the portal. Angela asked for feedback on the portal as well. Dee asked if it was ready to share with Micron employees and Angela encouraged her to spread the word.
 - iii. Angela and Cindy Thorngren, the lead on the project are working on the marketing for the site so we can go out to the general public to recruit mentors.
 - iv. Initially the mentors will likely be for secondary level students but younger ages are not prohibited from using the portal.
 - v. Discussion revolved around how to approach and recruit mentors from industry like Chobani. Angela commented that STEM AC members are working on a marketing piece to target that audience. The Mentor Portal is evolving and still in infancy.
- b. Professional Development
 - i. STEM AC received national coverage for providing over \$725K in grants throughout the State. Angela complimented Erica, Finia, Crispin and Stephanie who are responsible for managing the grant process. We received \$1.5M in requests and filled half of them. Angela also reported that we received an incredible number of applications from across the State.
 - ii. Dave asked if there were gaps or obvious holes in areas where applications were submitted. Crispin responded that the gaps that were obvious were due to lack of awareness about the availability of the grants. STEM AC team is addressing this issue by getting as many educators and administrators signed up for the newsletter to receive updates on grant possibilities. Angela asked that everyone direct interested parties to the website to sign up for our newsletter.
- c. i-STEM Update
 - i. Angela introduced Kaitlin Maguire as the new i-STEM Coordinator.
 - ii. The first i-STEM meeting was well attended and everyone was very supportive of the STEM AC taking over i-STEM. We need support from providers and i-STEM planning team members.

- iii. Kaitlin is working on a new logo, website, theme and keynote for the upcoming i-STEM Institutes in June.
 - iv. Idaho National Labs (INL) was the primary funder and STEM AC needs to increase and broaden financial support for i-STEM. We also need to accurately capture cash donations as well as non-cash donations.
 - v. Angela reported that we need to get a clear understanding of how i-STEM operated previously so very little will change this year in how i-STEM is delivered. As in the past, i-STEM will have 6 regional centers which provide professional development the last two weeks in June: North Idaho College and Lewis and Clark College June 18-21; ISU June 19-22; College of Eastern Idaho and College of Southern Idaho June 25-29 and College of Western Idaho June 26-29.
 - vi. We are working on Strand applications now. We are looking for diversity in our Strand providers. We are encouraging involvement from industry, libraries, formal and informal educators. Kaitlin is leading the charge!
- d. Hour of Code
 - i. Angela acknowledged Finia for taking the lead on Computer Science Education Week and Hour of Code. We have fun hour long coding tutorials on our website. The majority of schools participating across the State are doing so independently.
- e. ISEF
 - i. Angela reported that she, Maureen, and Crispin is actively looking for sponsors. Micron has committed to fund the ISEF West Fairs. INL and Andeavor are talking with STEM AC now on a commitment.
 - ii. Last year we had 100 projects; this year we have 180 projects! Last summer we trained a new batch of teachers and have returning experienced teachers as well.
 - iii. Discussed the regional variability and the size of each Fair. Eastern Idaho had the most, Boise had the second highest number of teams and North Idaho had only 14 projects. We lost many projects due to school snow days.
 - iv. Megan offered to brainstorm and help find industry sponsors.
- f. Family STEM/Career Awareness Grants

Angela reported that we have 75 different community events across the state and customized for each community. We are working on constructing a toolkit to help communities participate in STEM Family nights.
- g. Virtual Reality Pilot

Finia is taking the lead on this pilot program. We are partnering with Idaho Virtual Reality Council (IVRC) and Blocksmith with the main purpose to facilitate coding and create virtual worlds. Twelve lesson plans and PD's on how to use the tools are in the work. Designed for JR/SR High School aged students. We will also team up with libraries.
- h. IDeA Network for Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE)

This STEM internship program meets the legislative requirement to provide internships to High School Seniors work in college labs doing hands on projects. Students work for 10 weeks and receive \$5,000 work stipend. We will continue to support and expand this valuable program.

6. GOAL #2: Align education and workforce needs throughout Idaho

- a. Programs Donors are Choosing:
 - i. Educator PD received a lot of support. I-STEM and FabSLAM received \$185K
 - ii. Idaho Science and Engineering Fairs (ISEF) have \$50K in commitments to date
 - iii. Camp scholarships and Support received \$23K
 - iv. INDEEDS received \$10K
 - v. Family STEM Events received \$10K
- b. Angela commented that these programs are the “bread and butter” for funding.
- c. If legislators ask, Board members can say that STEM AC will more than double funds raised last year. By the end of January we should have \$500k cash in hand. We are tracking in-kind as requested by JFAC. We have received significant media on TV and volunteer hours. We are on track to make the \$1M funds raised as cash, cash equivalents or volunteer hours.
- d. Dave suggested that we get in front of Chamber of Commerce across the state in order to spread awareness for STEM AC support for workforce development.
- e. Angela made a call to action to the Board for help with Goal #2. She shared the Tax Credit messaging document to help the board share the information about our tax credit benefit and tax deduction benefit to the Foundation for potential donors.
- f. Additionally we need board help with ISEF sponsorships as well as judges. Amy offered to send out a request for both via her network. Idaho Technical Council (ITC) and Idaho Business and Education (IBE) also agreed to help and include the information into their newsletters.

7. GOAL #3: Increase awareness of STEM throughout Idaho

Upcoming Events:

- a. STEM Matters Day at the Capital. January 23rd from 11 – 3pm. Board is invited to attend.
- b. JFAC meeting as has been moved up to January 17th. We have been moved to be included with presenters from industry, CTE, workforce, commerce and labor.
- c. Angela reported that media coverage has been extensive and included Erica being named an Afterschool Champion, STEM Day at the Fair, INDEEDS, the Presidential Computer Science memo, INBRE, Dutch Bros/Reuseum donation, FabSLAM PD run by Erica and Maureen on the news discussing the role of STEM and Veterans.
- d. Discussion developed around the issue of Veterans as part of the STEM workforce for Idaho industry. Members of the STEM AC and Foundation are exploring opportunities to connect with the organizations serving the veteran population in Idaho. Dave reported that State Board of Education (SBE) is looking into how to determine college credits for vets as related to their extensive work experience while in the service and he encouraged Maureen to reach out to OSBE for further discussions.
- e. Crispin continues to update the Impact map for the website.

8. Jim Heuring: Invited guest from Gowen Field

- a. Jim gave an overview of the STARBASE program being established at Gowen Air Base. STARBASE is a well-established Dept. of Defense program on bases across the country. There are 6 core disciplines and the target student audience is 5th graders.
- b. The programs are free to students however school districts are responsible for transportation and food.

- c. Jim's goal is to have a facility for spring classes and the weeklong classes, 2 classes per day in the Fall.
 - d. Jim is working on 501 (c) (3) status.
 - e. Jim and STEM AC and Foundation members are working to develop a proactive partnership.
- 9. Wendi Secrist: Invited guest from Workforce Development Council (WDC)**
- a. Wendi came to provide an update on the newly formed WDC and the work that has begun. Wendi has been appointed as the Executive Director. Angela is the appointed member of the Council.
 - b. The three areas of responsibilities of the WDC are to: increase awareness of and access to career education and training opportunities; improve the effectiveness, quality and coordination of programs and services designed to maintain a highly skilled workforce; and help provide for the most efficient use of federal, state and local workforce development resources.
 - c. Wendi sees a natural connection between the WCD and the STEM AC and will work with Angela to form partnerships, as appropriate.
 - d. The purpose of the Council is critical to insuring that Idaho steps up to coordinate efforts with all stakeholders to develop an Idaho workforce that is prepared to support the needs of industries across the state in the fields related to STEM.
 - e. Idaho is one of 6 states to participate in the National Governors Association's "Work-based Learning Policy Academy" which is charged to develop strategies to scale the work-based learning opportunities that connect youth and young adults with middle skills career opportunities that require STEM knowledge. This is a cross agency collaboration between the WDC, OSBE, SDE, ICTE, Commerce, IDOL, STEM AC, IDVR and IDHW.

10. Statewide STEM Strategic Planning Meetings, Regional STEM Forums and Possible STEM Summit

- a. Discussed the possibility of holding a STEM Summit, an event which has not happened in over 2 years. The definition of STEM education is expanding which will help clarify what a STEM Summit could look like and help to develop a statewide STEM/Education WFD plan. Dave reiterated the importance of having an end goal for the summit to make it effective. Educate Idaho Network is working on providing data to help define what a STEM Summit would include.
- b. Discussion centered on an assessment that the STEM AC and OSBE Strategic Plans are more of a performance report not an operational, visionary plan. Attendees discussed the need to develop a more visionary plan- where do we want to be in 15 years. Need for developing an operational Strategic Plan.

Public Comment: Dave opened up the meeting to public comment. There was none.

Upcoming Events:

- January 8th is the State of the State from the Governor
- January 9th STEM AC Board Meeting 1-4pm
- January 17th 8 am is the JFAC Presentation
- January 23rd 11-3pm is the STEM Matters Day at the Capitol in the Rotunda

- Angela reiterated the need for Board support with messaging and fundraising support.

Next STEM Board meeting will be January 9th from 1-4PM