

STEM Action Center
Board Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2018

Call to Order

Chair Dave Hill called to order the regular meeting of the STEM Action Center at 1:01 pm on January 9, 2018 at WW-17, Boise Capitol.

Roll Call

Chair Hill noted we did not have a quorum and several members were in route from a meeting outside town. He postponed approval of the minutes until their arrival.

The following were present: Derica Preble (for Lorna Finman) Tim McMurtrey, Dave Hill, Amy Lientz (for Mark Peters), Bobbi Jo Meuleman
Dee Mooney, Jay Larsen (for Von Hansen) and Melinda Smyser arrived later in the meeting.

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 Von Hansen

Past Board Minutes Approved – Once a quorum was present Dave asked for comments on the minutes. No comments, minutes therefore approved for December 5, 2017 meeting.

Welcome and Introductions: Dave Hill welcomed new Board Member Bobbi Jo Meuleman of the Dept. of Commerce

STEM AC Updates: Erica Compton took the lead for the AC

- 1. Goal #1 Coordinate and facilitate implementation of STEM programs throughout Idaho**
 - a. ISEF:**
 - i.** Erica reported that we have over 300 students and 225 projects compared to last year when we had about 89 students and 100 projects.
 - ii.** Crispin let us know we will have 3 regional fairs; WISEF at BSU; EISEF at ISU and NISEF at NIC.
 - iii.** Crispin is still looking for sponsors for the Fair, particularly in the North, and asked Board members to help make the connections to sponsors.
 - b. Higher Education Pilot Projects**
 - i.** Erica is taking the lead on these two pilots. BSU has a Children's Center that could be used as a "lab" to teach early STEM and vet tools and teaching methods that could be replicated across the state and shared as best practices. Using the BSU film school teaching methods would be recorded to create a video library that could be shared with teachers across the state as a model of best practice. This "lab" could also be used to train pre-service and give them the opportunity to work on Early STEM education.

- ii. NIC and Gizmo: Erica reported on a program in North Idaho on the NIC campus and in partnership with Gizmo to bring pre-service teachers onto the campus to experience MakerSpaces that can translate into skills they can take back to the classroom. This model could be replicated for other locations creating a great opportunity for pre-service teachers across the state.
- iii. PD Initiative Year 2: PD's are all a go for year 2. C-STEM will run this year as well. Finia is looking at other Computer Science programs to implement across the state similar to Code.org, which is used widely. She is looking for another provider to give teachers an additional choice and will open the RFP this summer and open a grant to teachers in the Fall.

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

- a. Project – based Virtual Mentorship: Erica reported that Cindy signed up 10 teachers in December and 12 mentors and is working to get more students to sign up who can be matched with the mentors. We also need projects.
- b. US2020: Maureen reported that there were 90 applicants for this grant and the AC was one of 15 accepted. At the end of the month AC staff will head to Pittsburgh participate in a coalition-based training with 23 partners to take the next step in the process. She is waiting for the next questions that need to be answered before attending a national mentorship conference related to this grant.
- c. CS Co-Op and UI: Finia provided a brief history of CS Co-Op in Idaho. UI was the only University that was willing to move forward with this. Finia will be meeting with the SBE tomorrow to help define next steps. UI is looking to develop a certificate program for the IDoCode Program. ISU will be implementing the IDoCode program as a Master's program. This will also allow educators to teach CS as a Dual Credit course at their HS. STEM AC also partnered with UI to have three Dual credit trainings across the state.
- d. STEM AC Foundation Update: Maureen
 - ◆ Maureen reported that we had received two grants for professional services; one for help with taxes and the other for data analytics. She commented that Data is often critical to have when writing grants. Dave offered that the OSBE might be able to provide data if needed.
 - ◆ Ran an end of year donation campaign in December which was successful. Received several online donations, one was for \$6K!
 - ◆ We should have our 501c3 status approval by the end of January 2018
 - ◆ Maureen will conduct the Foundation's second Board meeting today to approve Board level policies. She is going to begin recruiting new board members in February. It would be important to have Board members across industry and regions.
 - ◆ Maureen gave her first presentation on behalf of the Foundation to the Sunrise Rotary club which was extremely well received.
- e. Donor Update: Erica reported that we anticipate a total of \$610K by Feb, 2018. She thanked Micron and INL for their very generous support which will total almost \$450K. Dave commented that they represent $\frac{3}{4}$ of the amount received in donations and that we need to work to broaden our base.

- f. Programs Donors are Choosing: Erica reported that Donors are funding Educator PD which also includes iSTEM; Competitions; Camps and Scholarships; INDEEDS and Family STEM Events.
- g. In-Kind Totals: Erica reported almost \$741K as of Jan 8th! In-kind donations included judges time, mentors, industry partnerships and media coverage.
- h. **CALL TO ACTION:** Erica revisited two areas that we need assistance from the Board on. She asked that the Board help identify sponsors for ISEF and judges. She also asked for help with recruiting Mentors. The Board has connections we do not have that could be very helpful. Several ideas were discussed to address both particularly to approach clubs and societies in each region. Several Board members committed to help make connections for both.

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

Awareness Events:

- a. IETA Conference in February at the Grove where we will have a large presence with a Maker Space. We will also participate in the Prevention Conference in Sun Valley in April.
- b. Grant Applications: We were awarded the INCLUDES, US2020, and are an NGA participant. We are waiting on the outcome of the NSF i-TEST grant due to be announced in February.
- c. Media Coverage: Family STEM and Career awareness will be awarded this month and should get significant coverage.
- d. STEM Matters Day at the Capital. January 23rd from 11 – 3pm. We changed the time to allow students to spend more time. We will have over 30 participants and we have arranged to close the street in front of the Capitol to allow kids to explore the KBOI new Weather Vehicle, the STEMBus and multiple high tech vehicles from the National Guard.

IMPACT: Crispin

- e. Impact map found on the website visually shows where we have made an impact in the State by legislative district with funding opportunities.
- f. Crispin reported that we have had outstanding increases in the number of students we have engaged in STEM related activities, from 10K in the first year to over 200K in FY2017. These numbers are not total number of students but the number of points of contact with students. We have impacted 5K teachers.
- g. Crispin also reported that we asked parents and students who participated in Family STEM events to fill pre and post event survey. The results were that we had a 36% increase in awareness of STEM careers; 20% more likely to want to pursue STEM and 98% of parents want their child to have a STEM mentor. This led to a brief discussion on the importance of not creating an atmosphere of STEM or no STEM. It is important for all students to have fundamental understanding of STEM.

4. **ESSA, STEM and SDE Partnership: Erica**

- a. ESSA places a greater emphasis on ensuring that students receive a well-rounded education and equity. ESSA recognizes that high quality STEM education opportunities are the key to achieving both of these goals.

- b. Equally important is to provide STEM learning opportunities to students and STEM training to teachers.
- c. SDE partnership has provided ~58K to support high quality PD in STEM in the State through i-STEM support.
- d. ESSA Title IV funding can also be used to provide STEM programs like increasing access to underserved populations, supporting student participation in competitions, hands on learning opportunities and integrating other academic subjects into STEM. Also integrating classroom-based, afterschool and informal education opportunities. This year, it was determined that i-STEM support for teacher professional development would be priority.

5. Legislation: Erica

- a. **STEM School Designation:** Erica thanked all who are helping to move this forward. SDE is leading on this with about 30 Idaho educators including Stephanie and Angela. A rubric is in draft and once that is approved we can use to load on to Salesforce and have schools apply for designation. We hope to have this available for next Fall.
- b. **STEM Advisory Board Clarification:** Marilyn Whitney from the Office of the Governor gave a brief background on the early founding of the STEM AC and the Board. The new FY19 legislation is designed to clarify the importance of the advisory role of the Board and to implement staggered terms to prevent the entire board moving on at the same time. The staggering of the Board will be determined by the Governor and will also reduce the term commitment to 3 years instead of 4.
- c. **Science Standards Support:** The STEM AC will continue to support the adoption of Science Standards for the state. Angela has been involved in this for many years and plans to stay involved in the process of getting these adopted.
- d. **FY18 Legislative Session Support:** The Board was asked review the explanation for the deferred spending from FY17 to FY18 to legislators and be able to answer questions from legislators. As requested by the Board we developed a draft of talking points about STEM and CS to assist the Board in answering questions from the legislator and the public regarding the STEM AC's work. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the talking points. Several suggestions included the importance of providing context by having an overarching statement of WHY and the idea that STEM means different things to different audiences. Decided to work on these further and get them to the Board ASAP so they have them available for the legislative session. ACTION: Asked the Board to provide feedback on these talking points to improve messaging

6. FY19 Budget Request = \$4.7M

- a. Erica shared the draft budget diagram developed to present at JFAC on the 17th.
- b. The Governor's recommendation was for \$4M and supports 2 FTE that we requested \$2M will go in the General Fund and \$2M will be in the STEM Ed Fund over which we will have \$2M in spending authority for a total of ~\$4.7M
- c. Angela described the roles of the 2 new FTE the first being the Financial officer to help track and process all funding, grants, and the foundation. The second position will be the Grants Analyst whose responsibilities will be to collect and analyze data to provide information on the efficacy of grants and help with grant writing.
- d. Discussed the historic view of the Governor's recommendations.

7. STEM Matters! Day at the Capitol

- a. Tuesday January 23rd from 11 am – 3 pm. Erica invited the Board to attend and experience over 30 hands on STEM activities, to meet with legislators, hear Lt Gov. Little speak at 1:15pm and explore the new KBOI state of the art Weather Vehicle, the STEMBus and high tech vehicles from the National Guard. Cory to send information flyer to the board via email.
- 8. Dave asked for a broad open discussion on the role of the STEM AC:**
- a. The board had a wide ranging discussion on the role of the STEM AC and STEM fatigue. We discussed the importance of answering the question of “WHY?” STEM is important to Idaho. Discussed the importance of making STEM relevant in rural areas not just the denser populated cities. The importance of being the bridge between education and industry. Emphasized the importance of the Board providing connections in communities to provide funding, mentors, industry contacts and being a champion for the STEM AC. We need to make sure we have a handle on the positive things happening regionally and be intentional in our messaging in those areas. Dee Mooney shared that we are now a role model for other states.

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

Upcoming Events:

- January 17th 8 am is the JFAC Presentation
- January 23rd 11-3pm is the STEM Matters Day at the Capitol in the Rotunda
- ISEF: BSU-March 16 site TBD; NIC-March 2 and ISU- March 10
- FabSLAM Student Showcases: Boise- Feb 24th , Lewiston- March 3rd and Pocatello-March 10th

Next STEM Board meeting will be March 12 from 1-4PM