



November Board Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2025

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Workforce Development Council
Conference Room
514 W. Jefferson St., Room 136
Boise, Idaho 83702**

Board Members Present: Jenn Jackson, Ed Atienza, Steve Christensen, Jani Revier, Allison Duman, ~~Erin Simms~~, Jake Reynolds, Bryan Klein

Staff Present: Dee Mooney, Denise Hill, Sherawn Reberry, Francine McGrew, Tina Polishchuk, Halle Fultz

Guests:

**Action Required*

Welcome

Dee Mooney

- Call to Order 1:35 PM
- Roll Call
- Agenda Review

Board Business

Jenn Jackson

- **Approve Meeting Minutes August 20, 2025*

Motion by Ms. Revier to approve the August 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes as presented. Second by Ms. Duman. Motion carried

Introductions

All

Fiscal Review

Dee Mooney/Francine McGrew

- FY26 YTD (Oct 31)
 - iSTEM major programs late in the year
 - Finishing Extern program
 - On track with spending
 - Salary is lower than expected 3 positions unfilled, 2 new program managers starting November 24th
 - General funds are healthy and on track
 - Dedicated fund, \$1,432,323
- Questions
 - Sawtooth Educator Awards transitioning after this year to ITC
 - INL was invoiced by ITC, verification needed



STEM Action Center Updates

- Externships
 - Annual report 2025
 - 264 Educator Extern applications
 - 68 Host Site applications
 - 102 externs at 56 host sites
 - 77% of Externs and 41% of Host Sites participated for the first time
 - Changes to eligibility for 2026
 - No post-secondary externs, only 2 applied this year hosted by INL
 - No K-5 externs
 - 6-12 teachers have the most F2F with those entering the workforce
 - New extern applications prioritized over repeat applicants, host sites non-issue
 - Feedback
 - What do the 1-5 doing, what are they taking back?
 - conversations about careers, providing lessons and career fairs
 - Remote districts with K-12 will likely have overlap
 - Open to discussion on adjusting going forward
 - Decision made by staff, presented to the Work-Based Learning Committee
 - Feedback: Feel the decision should be made by either the WDC Council or the STEN Advisory Board
 - No host sites in region 4 this year, will be the focus for next year
 - Will work with TPM host sites to spread the word and share the benefits
 - Spirit of the program is exposure to industry, need to grow industry participation versus non-profit participation
 - Survey feedback 2025
 - 93% of host sites ranked the impact of hosting as excellent
 - 100% of participating externs would recommend the program
 - Funding for 2026
 - \$250K from Workforce Development Funds
 - 50 Externs at \$5,000 each
 - \$2,500 from host site
 - \$2,500 from our funds
 - A cost sharing model is the most common throughout other programs
 - Applications open January 5, 2026
 - Success stories will be shared when available
- EcosySTEM
 - Transitioned to University of Idaho Extension
 - Monthly meetings, setting goals
 - Trisha Mick leading with coordinators regionally
 - Convening in October to discuss the change and what it all means
 - Working on updating the strategic plan
 - \$650K contract with a reimbursement model
 - Contract through end of June 2026
 - Dollars we provide will start to decrease as fund raising increases
 - Workload will increase with new model, as well as a shift in process
 - Clarification conversations are happening regarding process
- Hour of AI
 - Formerly Hour of Code



- 77 Educators Participating
- Almost 100 volunteers
- Representation from every educational region
- Proclamation event – December 8th at elementary school
- Sponsored by Micron
 - Incentive for schools to participate
 - Amazon gift cards for teachers
 - Impacts measured with pre and post surveys
- December 8th – 12th
- MOU initiated with Department of Education
 - Guiding document, what is STEM AC's role
 - Some overlap and collaboration
 - Graduation requirements and digital literacy, who is taking point
 - SDE approves standard
 - We work outside the K-12 and bring our connection with industry back to the decision makers

****STEM Action Center Funding Recommendations***

Dee Mooney

- Unobligated funds spend recommendations
- Opportunity: \$537K (\$150K General + \$387K Dedicated) \$250K for AI educational initiatives
- \$100K for middle school career readiness
 - Learning Blade
 - Ready for Industry and Professional Learning Cohorts
 - Career Classes in 8th grade
- \$100K for Out-of-School STEM
 - Discovery Center, Museum of Idaho, Children's Museum, and Children's Museum of Magic Valley
 - MOSS
- \$50K for PBL
 - STEM+ Leadership Academy Cohort
- \$37K hold for opportunities
- 116 school districts in Idaho and 24 charter districts
- Discussion:
 - Rather than spreading the funds across all districts with minimal impact, doing something larger that reaches them all
 - IPTV videos
 - Outreach grant provided to KIVI for same type of thing
 - Share information through newsletters, etc.
 - Find a resource that can be used by many
 - Curriculum should be usable statewide
 - We have contract with Learning Blade
 - Support increased usage
 - Available on Next Steps Idaho
 - "Usage" undefined, could be 5 mins or 5 hours, difficult to track
 - Trending seems to be positive
 - Every school has a license
 - Out of school dollars, how do we utilize
 - Possibly a grant
 - Support \$50K on PBL

Motion by Ms. Revier to accept the STEM AC Funding recommendations as presented. Second by Mr. Klein. Motion carried.



Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Jenn Jackson

Motion by Ms. Revier to adjourn. Second by Mr. Atienza. Motion carried.

Adjourned 3:00 PM