

STEM Action Center

Board Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2016

Call to order

Chair Hill called to order the regular meeting of the STEM Action Center on October 11, 2016 at WW-17, Boise Capitol.

Roll call

Chair Hill conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Dave Hill, Chuck Zimmerly (for Tim McMurtrey), Dee Mooney, Megan Ronk, Amy Lientz (for Mark Peters who was on the phone), Ken Edmunds; Von Hansen;

Excused & absent: Tim McMurtrey

Absent: Lorna Finman

Past Board Notes Approved – No comments, minutes therefore approved for August 08, 2016 Meeting.

STEM AC Updates

- a) Tim McMurtrey – is the new STEM AC Board Member who is currently the Chief Performance Officer and Strategic Planner from the Idaho State Department of Education.
- b) Angela wanted meetings to focus more globally and will be sending out monthly email updates as well as requesting that Board members review the monthly STEM AC newsletter. The monthly 1-1 call updates with members will continue as all thought they were mutually beneficial.
- c) Idaho Science and Engineering fairs – about 30 student projects so far
- d) STEM AC have partnered with AT&T and Discovery center for coding camp
- e) First robotics grant and recruitment – encouraging rural community and traditionally underrepresented to apply for classroom materials
- f) Device Grants – opened today
- g) PK12 innovate grant -Almost 90 Idaho reviewers for Pk12 innovative grants

- h) PD initiative open – currently taking applications from vendors; close in December and opportunities will open in January
 - 1. Erica is working with TESORO on community pilot projects
 - 2. Storymaker – Working to launch pilot project
 - 3. Botball PD and Showcase (robotics/showcase event, competition) to 11 schools
 - 4. Chairman asked if we have a mechanism to de-cluster applicants; AH we want to give and serve underserved or earn extra points; Chair – towards end of fiscal year, we should look back and see how we’ve done and see if we need to come up with a new mechanism to de-cluster; The STEM AC will continue to work with SDE in ensuring that school district Superintendents and Principals are getting the information. Chuck will be attending Superintendent meeting and will be glad to share information and upcoming opportunities on behalf of STEM. Chair suggested a one sheet of current announcement and forward to Chuck to share at next Supt’s meeting. AH mentioned that one challenge is awareness – people may not know about STEM or about what STEM AC has to offer.

- i) INDEEDS Awards – 2 teachers with help of industry
- j) Code.org and IDLA – online curriculum and free to educators and extensive PD with anticipated decreasing costs as more Idaho educators are trained
- k) CS Co-Op – UI eager to launch and industry wants to partner.
- l) Expansion of I DO Code program – working with BSU; educators getting computer science endorsement;
- m) ALICE and Java Fundamentals training hosted
- n) Mentorship platform – by January we could start connecting with industries and educators
- o) Increase awareness of STEM and STEM AC – first fiscal months had 100k of in-kind donation and media coverage; AH was at White House; presenting at variety of venues; Over 50 Idaho counselors in DC – presenting to Idaho Ed Assoc. next week; presented IBE and Super Conference in Boise last week with 1,500 educators and next week presenting to State Board of Ed; hosting variety of exhibiting booths; working with Falgrine Martene and ITC and moving forward with creation on collaterals for center; radio and news media have been friendly to Stem AC; media coverage on INDEEDS winners; Governor will do speech at the Hall of Fame dinner.
 - 1. Chair – KBOI – interview more Boise centered? AH – yes; Dave – Radio and TV marketing in other areas e.g. CDA, Moscow – do via local media in those areas
- p) Message points or literature that members could bring along for outreach, members willing to help spread the word; AH – will make those collateral

materials available; in December we will be able to report back on data from previous events; data from last year is just coming in now that will include number of teachers and students impacted; STEM AC will start getting draft collateral out and will seek members feedback;

- q) It was suggested that the STEM AC have a display table during the ITC hall of fame dinner and have collateral materials made available. Dee will be the awards speaker for INDEEDS and also have created talking points with other industries. Megan commented that the STEM AC and STEM Bus did a great job at the fair considering the heat.

Idaho Dept. of Commerce Updates

- a) The Idaho Dept. of Commerce is the lead economic development agency for the state (goal of commerce); bringing new companies to the state and playing marketing role; broadcasting to other countries; also have tourism arm in division; there are several number of key teams in commerce such as
 - 1) Business Retention and Expansion Team -what are current businesses' needs; what do we need to work with our partners;
 - 2) Business Attraction Team – to attract new businesses to the state;
 - 3) Community Development Team – work closely with communities – infrastructure; international team that helps small businesses; trade offices that they manage with Dept. of Agriculture (China, Taiwan and Mexico)
- b) Regional Economic Analyses – encouraging communities on industry clusters; where are their strengths and capabilities; further cement existing companies; huge growth in food processing in magic valley;
- c) Tax Reimbursement Incentive – biggest game changer as far as economic development; awarded 30 tax incentives; projects have been all over state; half of companies that have leverage tax incentive programs; tool to bring new companies to the state;
- d) How are we doing? – activities been spread throughout the state;
- e) Industry Focus; a lot of strengths in advanced manufacturing; corporate /shared services; Aerospace; food processing
- f) INL expanded efforts to attract foreign investors; had the opportunity to talk about STEM AC and the state investing in the center

- g) Issues – Talent/Education - # 1 issue hearing from business is not understanding what the work force is now and how is that going to change/pipeline in the future? Has to be cost-competitive environment; Infrastructure – rail/access/transportation networks; access to raw materials;
- h) Von: concern – talent to attract companies and keep jobs here; some high tech companies having development centers outside the state; there is a shortage of high tech talent; work that STEM AC is doing will help us fill up the pipeline; attracting talent to the state; housing crisis few years back highlighted; we can raise by having a consolidated/focused recruiting and messaging efforts; pull together materials and possibly doing joint recruiting and could help attract; we have great messaging but give it a little thrust; Megan – will continue to engage on attraction side and will also be working on retention; there is a lack of understanding that there a lot of opportunities; Choose Idaho – targeting young people who have moved out of Idaho - ;
- i) Ken – ran pilot program and very clear – greatest potential is returnees/retention of our graduates; even if they leave, they get to come back; particularly if we have paid their education;
- j) Chair – does the info commerce collects get push back to universities and colleges?
- k) Von – Idaho Tech Counsel – colleges looking for guidance on type of technology and curriculum should they be focusing on; North Idaho college (does a lot of aerospace)
- l) AH – important to note the role of SDE and STEM AC – industries can articulate to colleges, if we don't have educators with skills to teach these kids then we may not be able to move the needle
- m) Chair – closing with anecdote – we in Tennessee been so successful bringing car factories – you may be successful up to a point but you need to build platform

INL Re-Strategizing Plan

- a) Amy – Battelle Energy Alliance – has been involved with STEM since 2005; to be completely connecting with STEM AC goals and visions; Team of 3 full time employees and hire part-time teachers; employees with passion launching INL STEM program; past program was pretty broad; broadening everyone's knowledge of STEM
- b) INL brought in Focus to Idaho – bringing a lot more strategic focus to match up STEM AC's programs

- c) Goals aligned with STEM's AC's goals
- d) Von – question – has INL had been able to see much success in home grown from rural areas of Idaho? Just starting to see and take effect?
- e) Chair – 4 year institutions in last couple years have much more awareness and better concrete strategies and leverage points
- f) INL – alignment with STEM AC goals and leveraging opportunities; help connect dots and whatever way possible; INL have grants tied to STEM AC grants and have STEM AC help INL review the grants; classroom make-overs; informal grants; in-kind always good; leverage opportunities with teacher PDs; science fairs; mentors
- g) INL focused a lot of attention in getting eastern Idaho organized; a lot of energy and ideas but in all directions; trying to gather and organize and leverage; and could help bring information back to the state
- h) Opportunity to have a stand on its own and be there to have a smooth transition; continue to help support other parts of Idaho – policies and program development; leverage our resources in direction Idaho needs us; Teacher PD will be continued to be supported; transitioning to be very much aligned with STEM AC
- i) Questions – AH – been a year of learning curve and with support from INL is getting us there; appreciate everyone being patient with AH; Chair – role we tend not to focus on is coordination role; coordination doesn't mean control
- j) Ken – concern that there is a gap being created that we need to deal with; INL – we need to help get our own backyard get organized and then help in other areas; Chair – maybe STEM AC – can it do to help in other areas and leveraging? INL needs to make sure they do a good job and what implications - we create an unintended consequences; adopt STEM emphasis
- k) Amy INL – suggests having have monthly or quarterly meetings with STEM AC – have goals alignment and show investments made, outreach done and share to STEM AC
- l) Comments from audience; reminder the 6 centers have good contacts and i-STEM coordinators can be very helpful; a lot of workforce development counsels; talk to Northwest Manufacture Association – they might be able to help

STEM in Idaho Discussion

a) Proposals on Subcommittees

- 1) STEM Awareness (of the Action Center and General) how to reach out to general public and communities; what is our path forward? What do we do next? Campaign with Falgreen; additional ideas to share?
- 2) Chair – whose target audience? Chair – narrow it down to audience? Suggestions for brochures translated in Spanish

Chair – can we further fractionate? Families? Rural Communities? factors that enables a student to choose STEM careers: Teacher, Hands On, Parents
- 3) Chair – suggested that subcommittees be formed and what would be the work of the committee? To develop strategies on awareness/outreach
- 4) AH would like to invite a number of members to look at specific collateral materials; marketing materials based on perspective of SDE, industries, etc. and for members to provide feedback (before we send out for printing in Dec)
- 5) Some of the members will volunteer to serve in subcommittee while others will have a member of their staff well suited to be in committee; contact AH should you be willing to sit in this committee
- 6) Public Comment: - The science curriculum for the State of Idaho is being rewritten and it might be feasible to suggest when particular area of science curriculum covered, that the types of careers be brought up or mentioned

STEM Schools/STEM School Designation

- a) How do we designate schools perhaps with Governor's seal (and State Board?) of approval of top notch STEM school? How do we support creation of new STEM schools?
- b) Chair had an extensive discussion with the Governor's office and SDE: we need to look at roles of STEM AC and OSBE. The creation of STEM Schools is primarily a State Board issue not STEM AC issue – Chair is offering to carry suggestions or feedback to OSBE;

- c) AH – OSBE and SDE – providing guidance for what a STEM school look like; Utah STEM AC runs the platform that accepts applications for STEM Schools; showcase model schools and highlight best practices; sounded like OSBE wanted to hear more discussion; Chair commented that OSBE needs to look at own strategic plan and refresh; chair – still interested, through a subcommittee – some sort of guidance of STEM school designation; Chair will support recommendations to be brought to the OSBE– OSBE will have to create a committee and provide public outreach; what does this may look like? Chair will ensure there’s a discussion on STEM Schools and STEM designation in OSBE’s meeting and will bring feedback to STEM AC and Board Members.

STEM in Idaho – Role of STEM AC

- a) Purposes of this committee is coordination role; education community, industrial community, workforce
- b) How do we get all these alignment in Idaho? Connecting to community colleges, ITC – marketing, State board; creating lots of cross paths; get more binary; are we missing opportunities? Are we missing anything?
- c) Dee will share a list/inventory of different organizations in Idaho that are involved in STEM

Budget Request Review Discussion

- a) Have members take a look at the FY18 budget request; keep funding levels stable but move to ongoing funding; a request for new staff member -Grants and Contracts Analyst; budget request does allow us predictability;
- b) Full budget request that went out (4.5 mil) plus 2 mil spending authority
- c) AH – 2mil – cash money coming to center (in-kind doesn’t count); donations to educators or schools directly without involving STEM AC directly doesn’t count on the budget spreadsheets
- d) Potential Legislative Options: STEM AC Foundation?
 - 1) AH met with Utah’s foundation director and program manager ; AH gained interesting ideas on how they launched the foundation and what is the function of foundation and role in relation to the Center
 - 2) How can Idaho look into them as a model for creating our foundation? Utah wrote in legislation through their Action Center; have a separate

board; current foundation director is a contractor; have a foundation position at Idaho STEM AC? Running a piece of legislation? There is an existing 501c3 that can be embedded with STEM AC – Idaho Science, Math and Tech Coalition. How could we leverage an existing 501c3 and partner with them?

- 3) We need to figure out what might be best path forward – moving a foundation or merge with 501c3?
- 4) Foundations – some organizations are restricted to 501c3 designations; sometimes makes it easier for groups/industries to donate;
- 5) EC – some grants we cannot apply for if not a foundation
- 6) Roll them over – as long as STEM AC does not change what original they're incorporating for; lots of details that need to be worked through (AH will need to check Matt Freeman) for some sample clear guidelines
- 7) Marilyn Whitney: - worthwhile if direction is to pull IMSTC to get input from the JFAC – run a simple bill;
- 8) Action Item – AH go talk to Matt Freeman! Marilyn also having their department checking on legality of foundations/501c3
- 9) Any other possible legislation actions? No currently that will be lead by STEM AC, but perhaps will support others ie STEM Schools Designation via OSBE
- 10) Chair – suggestions for AH to start working on her presentation - Education Week – last whole week of January

Future Meeting Schedule, Topics and Wrap Up

Pre legislative session meeting – Dec 2 1-4pm

Adjourn