

STEM Action Center
Board Meeting Minutes
October 30, 2018

Call to Order

Chair Dave Hill called to order the regular meeting of the STEM Action Center at 1:08 pm on October 30, 2018, at WW-17, State Capitol. The meeting began late due to technical difficulties.

Roll Call

The following were present: Dave Hill, Tim McMurtrey, Bobbi-Jo Meuleman, Jennifer Jackson, and Melinda Smyser.

Via Conference Line: Dee Mooney, Von Hansen

STEM Action Center Staff: Angela Hemingway, Erica Compton, Finia Dinh,

STEM Action Center Contractors: Cory Compton, John McFarlane, and Joanna Madden

Absent: None

Welcome and Introductions:

Dave welcomed new board member Jennifer Jackson from INL and asked her to share her background.

Past Board Minutes Approved – Dave asked for comments on the minutes. No comments. Minutes therefore approved for August 22, 2018, meeting.

STEM AC Updates:

1. STEM Leadership:

- a. State Board Leadership 1st cohort meeting;
 - i. Administrators and teachers to give overview of Science Standards and project-based learning.
 - ii. Next training will take place in December. It will be a 10 day training and will take place going forward every other month.
 - iii. **ACTION:** We will need help with cohort #2 should it be determined that this training is effective and impactful.
- b. STEM School Designation :
 - i. John McFarlane is part of the STEM Designation team visiting schools. Four schools have applied and will be part of the on sight visits this week and next. The school in this process are Temple View Elementary (Idaho Falls) Bingham Academy (Blackfoot), Galileo STEM Academy and Barbara Morgan STEM Academy (West Ada)
 - ii. Next step will be to present the applicants that meet the “designation criteria” to the December State Board meeting and then will bring them to the STEM AC January Board Meeting.
 - iii. There are several other schools that are considered promising or emerging schools and will work to support them as needed based on the criteria presented at the August board meeting

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

- a. FabSLAM: Erica reported that the final of 3 FabSLAM workshops wrapped up in North Idaho last week. Having Idaho trainers/facilitators at each workshop that were trained in the summer

worked well. There were a few issues that arose that we can learn from. Overall it was great to have “in-house” facilitators instead of bringing in trainers from out of state. The participants in the workshops are well prepared to return to their schools and create teams to participate in the showcases early next year. The plan is to have the exceptional trainers take the lead on FabSLAM as part of i-STEM next summer.

- b. Early STEM Summit: Erica reported on the first every Early STEM Summit held on Oct 26th at the Riverside. There were 50 attendees from across the state made up of formal and informal educators that are high level stakeholders in Early STEM. Rural communities were included. This summit came about with short notice as a result of a grant we received 6 weeks ago. The day was about visioning what Early STEM education looks like in the State of Idaho. It was an extremely productive day which generated lots of next steps. We will conduct a second summit in the spring.
- c. Early STEM Workshops: Erica reported on the 4 workshops that will happen in February/March. We are currently looking for sites to conduct them. The potential sites include Twin Falls, Portneuf Library in Pocatello, Lewiston or CDA and the Treasure Valley. Will finalize the sites quickly and open the grant in the next 10 days.
- d. Hour of Code Grant: Finia reported that CS Ed week is Dec. 3 -7. Sixteen educators applied for the grant from around the State to create events for on hour of coding. We are teaming up with Code.org for 2 playground workshops and will follow up webinars to promote Hour of code.
- e. CS Professional Development Provider: Finia reported that this grant just closed. This grant is targeting CS PD providers. We can award up to two. We partnered with WestEd, they have a great rubrics that will allow us to have highly vetted and qualified PD providers. They must pass their rubrics and the STEM AC CS specific rubrics. The applications are currently under review and we will select in January, 2019. We would like this PD to have a continuous pathway students can build upon. Angela added that Finia’s view of CS has broadened her perspective in regards to the importance of continuous education in CS. Additionally the importance of integrating CS in to other subjects when it is not offered as a course. Broader discussion ensued around the progress of CS in the State, how to asses our progress and the magnitude of the task before us. Angela mentioned that we are actively pursuing additional outside funding like the NSF \$2M grant which is due in February.
- f. VR for ED Grant: Finia reported that the grant is now open. This will incorporate 3D coding, Mine Craft and partner with Blocksmith, a local VR company giving students the opportunity to participate in 3D coding to create VR worlds that they can then share.
- g. STEM Resource Portal: Angela reported on the new Resource Portal which was included in our legislation as best practices and resources. We partnered with IDLA to help create the portal. It is now live and growing. We are getting feedback from educators. DOL workforce statistics are part of the portal. Resources included are largely FREE to educators. Toolkits will also be included in the portal and educators have the ability to share resources by using the “Add Resource” button which allows them to provide information about a resource that then is vetted and added to the Portal by STEM AC. Discussed the importance of not duplicating sources and if resources are pulled from different sites that the information is the same. Announcement of the new portal will go out in the Nov 1st newsletter.
- h. STEM Day on the BLUE: Angela reported on this new event. It will take place in April before the Blue field at BSU is replaced. It is a very exciting event to showcase STEM with the assistance of the 125 STEM Athletes at BSU. They will offer STEM activities to school kids from across the TV. Bronco sports is raising the underlying funds for the event to benefit the STEM AC. If the sponsorship levels are achieved the STEM AC will be highlighted at the Nov. 24th football game and the Dec. 22nd basketball game. Thanks to Joanna and Kaitlin for taking the lead on this event.

3. Goal #2: Align education and workforce needs throughout Idaho

- a. **MakerMinded Update:** John gave an overview of what the MakerMinded grant included and how it works. We had our soft launch on Oct 2. We have been actively promoting it at various conferences since then. We currently have 24 schools and 52 users. The goal is to have 50 schools and 1000 users this year. After the election we will have a larger launch of this initiative. MM offers 50 student activities. Currently, have 103 student activities and 11 PD opportunities for teachers. One of the main goals of MM is to connect students and schools to industry with at least 25 collaborative opportunities.
- i. **Why MakerMinded:** John reported that Manufacturing is the 5th largest industry in Idaho and produces \$10.4B in products each year. Two years ago that number was \$8.1B so the increase is significant. Manufacturing employs 10.2% of the private sector workforce which is also significant. Idaho's tech sector is the 2nd fastest growing in the nation behind Utah. STEM jobs are expected to grow 23% by 2024 which equates to 5800 new jobs. The problem is that currently we do not have the skilled workforce to fill existing positions and there are not enough prospective employees to fill the projected openings which is part of the impetus for MM.
 - ii. MakerMinded allows us to work with a diverse group of students/teachers on an ongoing basis and gives us a view into underserved schools and how to help them. Also allows us to find the adult individuals who are qualified and dedicated to STEM and support them.
 - iii. MM incentivizes teachers and administrators to develop STEM opportunities. John attended Inspire to Hire Conference this morning and students reported that they do not feel that they have STEM opportunities available to them. Angela added that she has met with WDC to ensure that our programs are cohesive and that MM becomes part of the larger system. MM and our mentorship portal offer an "easy on ramp" for schools to industry and vice versa.
 - iv. MM can also give us insight in to STEM programming across the state particularly in underserved communities. It promotes partnerships between local schools and their community manufacturers. Industry has a self-interest in connecting to the workforce of the future. SWI-MA Expo had 900 students attend. John attended the SWI-MA conference and was able to connect with manufacturing and have them sign up to be part of the directory of manufacturers that is being created as part of the MM effort. Currently we have 45+ manufacturers in the directory. The directory would provide student's access to manufacturers and potential internships and externships. Need to find strategies to continue to connect students and industry. One idea is to develop a "how to" template to help industry connect with school. We would look to WDC for support in this project
- b. **INDEEDS Award:** Finia reported on the recent INDEEDS Awards ceremony held on Oct. 17th. This is an industry driven award. Educators can self-nominate or be nominated by colleagues. Our award winners were both from rural communities and we had the first North Idaho winner in Laura Wommack from Plummer. John Barenberg from Marsing was the K-6 winner. Micron and INL were Gold sponsors of the event and Dee Mooney was the presenter. Thank you, Dee!
- c. **Computer Science Update:** WHAAA HOO!!!! Finia reported that Idaho is the 2nd state in the country to check off all of the 9 recommendations to move CS forward in each state! The State plan was developed to address these recommendations and Code.org announced our accomplishment in their Blog. This accomplishment shows our commitment to PD and our students. The Governor will have a proclamation during CS week Dec. 3-7th. Governor will also once again do coding in the elementary schools.
- d. **STEM AC Foundation:** Joanna reported on the status of our fundraising efforts. We are in the process of creating a fund raising plan to engage industry to increase awareness about the STEM AC. In addition to industry, STEM AC needs to continue to increase individual donor engagement through opportunities like Amazon Smiles and Fred Meyers. **ACTION:** If you shop at Fred Meyers and have a reward card you can designate the STEM AC as beneficiary. Also with Amazon. Log on to their Amazon Smiles site and designate the STEM AC and each time you

shop we will benefit. We are also actively working to diversify and increase grant sourced funding by researching grants will be appropriate to support our current programs. We are also working to improve the interaction with donors by using best practices and improve tracking and reporting. We will use our “Bright Spots” to engage industry partners and keep legislators aware of the successes across the state. The goal for this legislative session is to have 8 Bright Spots to share. Tomorrow we will have a check presentation with the First Lady as a result of a P3 funding. We will be presenting checks with Dutch Bros to Reuseum in the amount of \$28K and another to the Girl Scouts in partnership with AAUW in the amount of \$18K.

- e. Performance Report: Angela reported that our Top Donor programs are Competitions, Educator PD’s, STEM Awareness events and INDEEDS. We will be asking for an increase of \$1M in spending authority from the legislature. We have new sponsors on the radar with Wells Fargo, Idaho Power and Idaho Credit Union. **ACTION:** We will need Board support with the legislature when the session starts. Donor totals for FY19 thus far are approx. \$421K. Donors include Micron, \$174K; INL, \$127K; Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation, \$50K; Individuals, \$11K; Idaho Central Credit, \$5K. In-Kind of \$272K includes judges, mentors, industry partnerships and media coverage.

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

- a. Awareness Events: We continue to connect with people and organizations. Angela reported that Wendi, Dave, and Marilyn participated in the Federal Plan for STEM (Angela was unable to attend as she was committed to present at a different conference). Dave commented that it a large document to digest and asked that in reviewing the executive summary that you pay attention to #1, 2, 7 and 10 in the list of STEM aspirations. It was a very worthwhile meeting. Will have a follow up report for January Board meeting Angela further reported that our media coverage has been extensive. Melinda and Dave offered kudos to Angela and the STEM AC Team for raising the bar and for tremendous success in a very short period of time. Great STEM TEAM work!

5. Workforce Development Council Update:

- a. Wendi Secrist and Caty Solace reported that an Outreach Committee has been formed to come up with a plan and process as well as a budget for outreach projects. Funding in the amount of \$500K was approved by the WDC to spend on outreach projects. Next steps are to meet with the Outreach Committee and create a strategic plan. She provided examples of what some of these outreach projects large and small might look like. Angela commented that they are seeking ways for the STEM AC to partner with WDC and perhaps apply for some of these funds to assist with outreach efforts. Caty commented that there is exciting opportunities for collaboration with the STEM AC. Angela provided a brief description of how the WDC and STEM AC are complimentary in our efforts. Groups discussed the efforts to provide schools with in-roads to industry and employers a point of entry to the schools. Tim commented that school counselors can be critical in this effort. Melinda commented on the need to keep things simple and ensure there is not duplication.

6. Micron Update: Tabled until January Meeting

7. Governor’s Nuclear Production and Manufacturing Update: Tabled until January Meeting

8. Inspire Idaho Update:

- a. Charles Buck from UI in CDA provided brief background on Inspire Idaho. Today they are providing 180 hours of Swift coding through independent instruction. The goal is that individuals will be able to complete an “App” by the end of the class. They took a look at the barriers to people participating and addressed those. Barriers included: cost for instructional solutions; however, the 180 hours are FREE; Supports for learning; creating a learning community using the UI extension offices; limited access to computers (so in partnership with APPLE and other sponsors, a MacBook Library was created so they can be checked out like a book). The initiative was rolled out state wide in March. 800 Idahoans are participating. 56% are Female. A verified Badge will be created to demonstrate competency for those that complete the 180 hours. The

tangible evidence of completion is the “App”. They will be working with the STEM AC for possible partnerships.

9. Public Comment: None

10. Upcoming Events

- a. Angela asked that Board members please respond to the Doodle poll to set up December ‘catch-up calls’ in lieu of a December Board Meeting.
- b. STEM Matters Day at the Capital is January 23rd.

Next STEM Board Meeting will be January 15th.

Adjourned at 3:35 PM