

**STEM Action Center
Board Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2019
Chobani, Twin Falls, Idaho**

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Dee Mooney called to order the regular meeting of the STEM Action Center at 9:53 am on November 5, 2019 on the Chobani campus in Twin Falls Idaho. The delay in the start time was due to the Chobani check in procedures.

Roll Call

The following were present: Jake Reynolds, Wendi Secrist, Jeff Rosser, Dee Mooney, Paul Casey, Jennifer Jackson

Call in: Dave Hill

STEM Action Center Staff: Angela Hemingway, Erica Compton and Crispin Gravatt

STEM Action Center Contractors: Kaitlin Maguire, John McFarlane On Phone; Cory Compton

Absent: Tim McMurtrey

Past Board Minutes Approved: Dee asked for comments on the minutes. Wendi moved to approve minutes and Jennifer seconded. Approved unanimously.

Idaho STEM AC Strategic Goals:

Angela: Gave a quick review of the Strategic Goals of the STEM AC. Access, alignment and awareness are key goals.

Crispin: Provided an update on recent awarded grants. PK12 grant 45 awards 63% of applications. Family STEM. Family STEM 27 out of 36, 75% awards. Sparklight (formerly Cable One) and Dept Health and Welfare) provided financial support. Most successful Botball team is in Jerome.

-Best Buy awarded a large grant of \$10K for Rural Botball.

-We are partnering with the Army Outreach for the eCybermission competition which is available state wide. eCybermission is middle school run by the army. All online competition which helps promote rural involvement. We received a \$50K grant to support the competition across the state.

-ISEF Support grant is open now. The competition will be held in 3 regions and we are expecting this to well attended as attendance has grown significantly over the past 3 years.

IDX...formerly FabSLAM Erica: FabSLAM has been re-branded just for Idaho to IDX, Idaho Exhibition of Ideas. Locations in CSI and CEI on 11/16 and 12/7 at the UI. Teams working on real world challenge tools for visually impaired people. We had a great launch with the School for the Deaf and Blind.

John: MakerMinded...supported by the Dept of Defense. It is a program for grades 5-12 grade. The competition registration is open now and we currently have 56 schools signed up now. We have developed a state-wide directory of manufacturers willing to work with schools in the state.

i-STEM: Kaitlin ...i-STEM 2019 we had 400 educators around the state We are currently recruiting strand providers for 2020. We received \$100k from Dept of Ed in support of i-STEM and provided

strands addressing the State Science Standards. This year may be more math oriented and in partnership with Health and Welfare provide health related strands. Developing partners to help sponsor i-STEM like Idaho power. AH: Asked the Board to help us find great teachers in all the regions. And Business partnerships too.

We received \$137,500 from OSBE in support of STEM leadership training – \$100,000 for the 10-day training of 11 schools and \$37500 for i-STEM leadership training strands. Cohort 1 & 2 will co mingle at the Feb training. Same structure as last year with more focus on development of leadership skills. Some are emerging STEM schools.

INDEEDS Awards: Crispin attended the awards ceremony and reported that we had the first ever librarian/technology teacher, Lynette Leonard, as a winner from South Side Elementary in Cocolalla. She was also a FABSlam winner a few years ago. She works at a school that is in the pipeline to become a STEM Designated school. The other winner was Robyn Wilson from Emmett. She is one of our enthusiastic supporters of ISEF. The CEO of VINYL was the keynote speaker for the event. Thank you to our INDEEDS Partners, INL, Micron and VINYL.

Governor's Summit Recap

Angela provided multiple links for the presentations at the Age of Agility Summit. She particularly encouraged everyone to take the time to watch the presentation by Burning Glass. The data was extensive and discussed the idea of “stackable skills” and how that translated into increased income for the worker. Wendi added that his message was positive a suggested that education needed to be tweaked with minor shifts not a complete overhaul.

Externships: John reported on the success of the pilot Externship program. We had planned on placing 10 teachers and ended up placing 16. We received wonderful positive feedback from both teachers and industry hosts. All businesses reported very positive feedback and as a result we anticipate about 25 businesses looking for an extern in 2020. Erica commented that if the board was interested to go to our website and read the extern blogs. They are very inspiring. <https://stem.idaho.gov/apply/stem-externships/>

STEM Designated School:

Angela noted that data suggests that STEM Schools that have been functioning as such for 5 or more years consistently score at or above the state average on math, ELA and science. John will be visiting a few schools next week, North Idaho STEM and Southside Elementary. There may be another for Spring 2020. There are about 20 emerging schools. January we will be bringing forward those 2 schools for the Board to vote on a pass on to SBE. Wendi asked if we had the funding for these schools ongoing? Angela reported we had annual funding but going forward would be looking for funding partners as a cost share.

STEM Diploma is also an option as not all schools will become a STEM Designated school. Will be working with OSBE and/or SDE to see how many kids are eligible for the STEM Diploma. We also need to get a clear understanding of what the requirements are for earning that diploma. Need to clearly define what classes count towards is to insure a meaningful STEM diploma.

STEM Ecosystem:

Erica, John, and Kaitlin reported on the Ecosystem convening they attended in Cleveland where it was announced that the STEM AC was one of 6 accepted as a new Ecosystem. There were 60 applicants from around the world. It was a very competitive process. We chose to set up a state-wide Ecosystem. January 16th we will have a convening to meet with our Ecosystem partners to determine what our Ecosystem will look like. The STEMx grant we received will help with the cost of the convening. We are also applying

for a \$100K NSF Planning grant to support our Ecosystem. We will be working with partners to make it an effective Ecosystem. How we set up the Ecosystem could change the way the STEM AC operates.

White House Strategic Plan:

Angela suggested to review page 22 of the report included in the Board docs which gives a financial summary of all the funding available for STEM Initiatives around the country. There is a lot of money available so if you see an opportunity for a grant let us know and we will investigate applying.

Grants and Foundation updates:

Angela shared a list of grants received in FY20 thus far. Laura Moore Cunningham \$50K grant was for First Robotics rural teams and state competition. The Foundation has received \$300K since July 1. The P3 funding option is a very popular mechanism for industry partners. Through a new partner the Foundation has received a annual gift in support of women in CS.

Angela noted that “Giving Tuesday” on December 3rd and that organizations receive additional funding when there is 100% Board participation. It is not about the amount given but that 100% of the Board participates showing support for the STEM AC. In addition, we are preparing for the year-end campaign. We have added 2 new Foundation Board members. Nick Aldinger owner of Idaho Business League events in Meridian and Molly Prickett, Sr. Environmental Engineer with Bayer in Soda Springs.

Angela shared a slide depicting our numerous new partners.

Funds raised in FY20 as of 11/1/19 total \$807K. Our major donors are INL, Micron and Battelle. Top Donor programs for FY20 are Public-private partnerships, Professional Development, Externships and competitions. The P3 is very successful bringing in \$553K from industry partners.

Final fundraising reports included total In-Kind donations. For FY20 we have received a total of \$1.25M from media reports, grant reviewer, competition judges, training spaces, mentors and industry partnerships. We track all in-kind and use \$30/hr as the wage for the time and talent donated.

Board Selection Process Discussion:

Dave gave a brief background on how the Board was established in the beginning when he took the role as Chairman. The legislation that established the STEM AC did not set up a process for picking the Chair and Vice-Chair nor terms for these positions. There are certain board slots that are outlined in the legislation as well as terms for board members that was added to the legislation in 2018, but not the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. Goals and responsibilities for these positions need to be outlined and formal by-laws written. Wendi shared that the WDC’s bylaws could serve as a template for STEM AC by-laws. STEM AC Foundation also has bylaws in which the terms are 3 years. Dave, Dee, Wendi and Angela will meet to develop a plan to present at the next meeting in January to provide a streamlined set of bylaws.

Legislative Preparation:

The agenda was amended to move the Chobani presentation to be part of the tour of the Chobani facility.

During recent catch up calls with Angela discussed the upcoming legislative session. We would like to determine what tools and/or talking points would facilitate discussions with Legislators. Angela presented several resources that might be helpful. Attachments in the board packet were reviewed and discussed. It was decided that talking points would be helpful for the board. Angela will meet with the team to develop and present at the January board meeting.

Angela gave an overview of the legislation that established the STEM AC and the reasoning for it. She indicated that 3 of the statutes did not come with funding however they require funding. The STEM AC team consist of 6 FTEs, contractors, WorkU BSU students, a BSU intern, and now a VISTA.

Funding Discussion: Last year we saw a \$1M bash reduction. We have repeatedly asked for \$2M ongoing for CS, but have not been able to convert that to ongoing. \$1M was diverted to literacy programs. Trying to emphasize Literacy in terms of technology, CS, data, and computational literacy. Early budget indications show that the \$1M for CS will not come back this year. STEM AC has requested \$500K one time and \$500K ongoing. We need industry support for the funding conversation with the legislators. Emphasize the need stability in funding. Agencies have been asked to take a 1% cut this year and next year maybe 2%. Economic slowdown and tax cuts are the primary reasons for the cuts.

Jennifer commented: Why is the separation for CS? CS is included in STEM, but current budget views them as separate. General discussion on allocation in funds and how to get greater flexibility to spend money on STEM which includes CS.

Discussed on how to approach the budget ask. Ongoing funding is the goal and would be a huge win. What is important to JFAC is what industry wants and needs. Discussed our perception as part of K-12 education and how to be included in that funding conversation or within a broader literacy discussion. Reviewed STEM and Idaho's economy and the importance of STEM education on the workforce and overall economic health of the state.

Analysis of the Budget by Goal further highlighted the need for clear talking points and information to share with the legislators and donors/sponsors. It was suggested that perhaps we invite some outside people in for the first 45 minutes of January meeting to hear the talking points as they relate to budget much like a focus group. It was suggested that the best talking point is the impact that decreased funding has on the economy of Idaho. Also need to discuss the need for flexibility to spend out money and the programs we run. Possibly lays the foundation for changes in statute(s) to increase budget flexibility. Overall budget discussion provided good feedback for the talking points and messaging and STEM Team will work to update talking points per this generative discussion.

Board Support:

Need continued support from the Board to introduce us to individuals, businesses, or companies that share our mission and vision. These connections are important for developing new donors, volunteers and P3 opportunities.

Awareness Events:

Upcoming STEM AC events include Hour of Code the week of December 9th; STEM Matters at the Capitol on Jan. 15th, STEM Ecosystem Kickoff is Jan 16th and STEM Day on the Blue on April 24th. The Governor will have an HOC proclamation and several legislators are jumping in to CODE at a school during HOC on Dec 10 at 10am at Garfield Elem in Boise.

Board Catch-up Calls:

Cory will be sending out a Doodle poll to set up these calls in December calls. Please respond to the Doodle Poll to get these calls on your calendars.

Meeting was adjourned at noon and was followed by lunch and a tour of Chobani.

Next Board Meeting is January 10th at the Capitol WW-17 from 1-4 pm