

STEM Action Center
Board Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2020; 230pm-4pm
Zoom Meeting due to COVID

Listen here to IPTV Stream: <https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/archive/#stem>

Call to Order

Chair Dee Mooney called to order the regular meeting of the STEM Action Center at 2:30 pm on October 19, 2020. (Note: Meeting was shortened in September to accommodate STEM AC Presentation at National Ecosystem Convening.)

Roll Call

Due to COVID the STEM AC Board meeting was conducted via Zoom. On the Zoom meeting were Dave Hill, Tim McMurtrey, Wendi Secrist, Jeff Rosser, Dee Mooney, Paul Casey, Jennifer Jackson, Jad Mahnken.

STEM Action Center Staff: Angela Hemingway, Erica Compton, Crispin Gravatt, Finia Dinh, Stephanie Lee

STEM Action Center Contractors: Cory Compton, John McFarlane, Kaitlin McGuire

Absent: Jake Reynolds

Past Board Minutes Approved: Dee asked for comments on the July 7th minutes. Since there were none, Dave moved to approve, and Jennifer seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

STEM AC Updates Related to Goals and Outcomes:

Idaho EcosySTEM Work: Insights and Next Steps

Angela provided a brief update on the status of Idaho's new EcosySTEM regional strategic planning meetings and who some of our partners are in building the EcosySTEM. We had a very successful regional convening in September and are currently working on the Statewide October 30th convening. The reason our board meeting had to be shortened was we were invited to present virtually today at a national EcosySTEM meeting which went very well. As a part of the EcosySTEM work, we created a survey for our partners to collect qualitative and quantitative data to help guide the work that needs to be done in the state. Angela introduced Crispin who presented the preliminary findings from the survey. The data presented including geographic location of organizations; the geographic location served by the organization; description of organization and the age range that is impacted; who participating organizations saw as the biggest STEM supporters, (this was particularly interesting as the STEM AC was identified as critical to STEM in Idaho); interesting Likert data regarding STEM awareness, connection and real world value of STEM in the community; assessment of the assets and needs in the community with the common thread being the need for increased funding which is a primary function of the STEM AC. Several Board members asked if the respondents were organizations already doing STEM outreach with Crispin responding that the initial survey was given to our primary network within the EcosySTEM and has since been shared with a broader network. Further the question was asked about the sample size. The data presented was from about 100 respondents with more coming in all the time as we continue to share the survey with partners and on social media platforms. Crispin moved on to qualitative

data by region starting with the definition of the community; resources available and missing within the region; access to and means of partnering with other organizations; achievements and wins; how they measured success; how they are able to navigate regulatory and policy needs from the perspective of the organization and the community; identifying the barriers to success with funding being the common hurdle; how organizations are providing equity and what support is needed to do so. Tim addressed the issue of measuring success by citing the Idaho Coaching Network looking on how the work they do is “moving the needle” which is very important to funders. Crispin added that we look at the reach of our programs and resulting skills acquired ie: improved test scores. Angela also included the impressive number highlighting an 11% increase in the number of teachers teaching computer science and an 18% increase in the number of students taking CS courses between the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years. Angela and Finia will be requesting the 2019-2020 data to share with JFAC. Angela encouraged board members to take the survey and to share with their networks. She further shared the registration link to the Oct. 30th Convening.

COVID Impact: Angela provided an update on the status of programs impacted by COVID. FabSLAM has been cancelled. ISEF will be held virtually with details currently being worked out to mirror the National competition. She thanked Joanna and Kaitlin for working with donors who committed to sponsor travel to other needs like technology connectivity.

i-STEM: Finia reported on the status of i-STEM. She is surveying past strand providers to determine if they would attend in person or if this should move to a virtual event.

Grants: Finia shared that we are running the very popular Camp and Out of School Grant which is open until Dec. 15th. Idaho Codes is still open, and we have an outside sponsor providing the Bearden Award to 4 girls who will receive \$250 as part of Idaho Codes.

Competitions: Finia said that this year Jr. Botball/Botball will be virtual via a simulator.

STEM Leadership: John reported on the latest STEM Leadership PD. We partnered with Micron and instead of running as a cohort was conducted at the individual school level.

Externships: Feedback from last year’s extremely successful Externship program from industry was that October was too early to open the opportunity to apply so this year the applications open in January. Under Kaitlin’s leadership, STEM AC has applied to ONR (Office of Naval Research) for a grant of almost \$570K to support the Externship program over 3 years. The goal is to host a maximum of 60 externs. Angela pointed to the new externship video. The YouTube link will be sent to the board. Dee asked if we are a leader in the extern program nationally with John and Kaitlin sharing that our program is far more comprehensive and not just a 1-2 day event but our program requires 200 hours of on-site, experiential learning so is far more in-depth. Wendi commented that our program is modeled after the Iowa program which currently hosts 80 externs. We believe 60 is our max and very doable.

STEM School Designation: John reported that many schools in the pipeline for the designation process are postponing due to COVID and the inability to provide in person demonstrations which is an integral part of the designation process. Angela informed the Board that the updated Cognia designation standards have been adopted by the State Board.

STEM Diploma: Angela provided information about the requirements for a student to receive a STEM diploma per Idaho code 33-523 and how these students go above and beyond the regular high school graduation requirements. In 2019, 7.5% of Idaho graduates were eligible to receive a STEM diploma. For the class of 2020, this number increased to 12.2%, a 65% increase, year over year and something to be presented at JFAC. Discussion included how to encourage schools to award the STEM Diploma. Ideas

included funding and providing a STEM seal for the student's diploma or a cord similar to the Honor Society cord. Further discussion included how a STEM diploma would appear on the transcripts for colleges to see and the idea that college counselors need to be brought into the process to encourage schools to participate and acknowledge students.

Grants: Kaitlin highlighted the two latest grants received the GEER Grant to enhance and support the i-STEM libraries to enhance them with equipment and lesson plans. Second is the FIRST Equity Community Grant to add 6 new teams which is a significant increase.

Foundation/Fundraising Update: Kaitlin reported that the Foundation has raised \$137K to date and we are currently going through our first audit. The Foundation has 2 new board members and is seeking to add another preferably from North Idaho to provide geographic diversity. Further, Idaho Codes has been a very successful partnership with our funders. Angela added that we are currently on track to meet our goal of \$1M. The most popular donor programs are PD's and P3 opportunities. Competitions are down due to COVID and we are working with donors to shift competition donations to other opportunities.

Awareness: Angela outlined several upcoming awareness events and presentations including Idaho Library Conference, National Ecosystem Convening and Presentation, ION Power Up STEM Expo (virtual), DevCon Conference (Clearwater), and Idaho School Boards Association Conference, Idaho Technology Council Hall of Fame (INDEEDS Awards), and Boise Startup Week.

Budget Discussion:

Present FY21; Future FY22

Angela shared the "beaker" graphic showing our total appropriations is \$5,997,300. She emphasized that ~\$3M of that is cash we can raise and that ~\$3M is cash on hand. Angela provided an analysis of the budget by project for FY20 and FY21. In August we presented a similar budget for FY22 with the exception of moving the Research Analyst position to the general fund.

Legislation: There is no proposed Legislation for the coming year.

Strategic Plan and Performance Report: Angela briefly reviewed the 7 Legislative Statutes, Mission and Vision and our Goals that all serve to guide the work we do. When we present the performance data to JFAC we will need to explain the drop in engagements which is due to COVID as well as the decrease of \$1M in state cash appropriations. Dee pointed out the importance of the impressive amount of cash raised which portrays a trust and strong reputation with our donors. Jad commented that it would be important to share with JFAC the number of educators and businesses backed out because of COVID. Angela noted that our awareness events like the Fair were impacted due to COVID as well.

Board Updates: Dee reported on Micron's Chip Camp which is in its 20th year. The camp is a 3-day event for 7th and 8th graders. It has been very popular and mostly attended by students in the Boise area. This year, due to COVID, it was held virtually which allowed outreach to rural area. Kits were sent out to participants and the camp was conducted via ZOOM with breakout sessions. It was a huge success and will likely be conducted virtually in the future to allow rural communities to benefit from the camp. Jennifer provided an overview of INL's annual Nuclear Science Education Week. It will also be conducted virtually with a Teacher Career Counselor Webinar on Oct 21 with Angela presenting. Four \$1500 grants will be awarded to participants in the webinar. Jennifer further reported that INL has had one million virtual visits to INL. There is also a scholarship opportunity for Jr/Sr students who research a nuclear science problem and present a solution. Additionally, INL is providing STEM kits to 4th grade classes which include a book authored by former first lady Lori Otter.

Public Comment: None

Upcoming Events: October 30th Statewide Ecosystem Planning meeting; STEM Matters held in January will likely be cancelled this year due to COVID.

Closing remarks: Angela stated that we would be sending the video links to the Externship program and the new This is STEM video and encouraged board members to share with their networks.

Dee adjourned the meeting promptly at 4pm.

Next Board Meeting is January 7th and will be a Zoom meeting.