

**STEM Action Center**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 21, 2021; 1pm-3:30 PM**  
**Zoom Meeting and in-person**

**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 1:02 pm on July 21, 2021

**Roll Call**

The STEM AC Board meeting was conducted via Zoom and in person in the STEM AC conference room. On the Zoom meeting were Dee Mooney, Dave Hill, Jeff Rosser, Jennifer Jackson, Paul Casey, Jad Mahnken, Jake Reynolds. In-person attendance were Wendi Secrist, Joel Wilson

**STEM Action Center Staff:** Kaitlin Maguire, Erica Compton, Crispin Gravatt, Finia Dinh, Stephanie Lee

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

**Absent:** None

**Opening remarks:**

Dee thanked Jeff for his service. Today is his last meeting. Jeff shared that he is now in Utah for his new job. He noted his appreciation for being able to participate in the STEMAC. Dee also thanked Paul Casey for his participation. Today is also his last meeting. He is now working for a company based in San Francisco. Dee introduced Dr. Joel Wilson from State Department of Education (SDE) as a new member. He is a former superintendent and teacher. Board members introduced themselves for Joel's benefit.

**Past Board Minutes Approved:** Dee asked for comments on the April 1<sup>st</sup> minutes. Since there were none, Wendi moved to approve, and Dave seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Goal Updates:** Kaitlin

The Board report was sent out in advance and is organized by our goals and programs. Programs highlighted in green have been updated since last board meeting. Kaitlin highlighted the following updates:

- Amazon Web Service (AWS) will launch in August. We will have a Press release with governor's office. AWS will Partner with colleges and K-12 schools. This program will assist in developing workers for web-based and cloud-based employment. AWS is offering free certification for teachers and students.
- We are debuting a new online catalog for the 6 i-STEM libraries that contain resources and devices for educators to check out for their classrooms. The libraries received new materials this year and will be easily accessed and ready in August.

- The Drone Professional Development (PD) was completed last week and received great press. Attending teachers learned to code as well as build and fly a drone. They also received Drone equipment for their classrooms.
- We will host once again the STEM leadership PD to build leadership capacity and support as schools work towards STEM School Designation. The Leadership PD offers an onramp for STEM School Designation. We have 10 available spots for school teams, 7 confirmed teams currently.
- STEM School Designation: We have 3 schools lined up for certification this fall with 2 more in the spring as we catch up on certification that was impacted by Covid.
- STEM Diploma: We had 200 requests for these seals for school diplomas for spring 2021 graduation.
- Ecosystem: The Idaho Ecosystems continues to evolve and grow. The next Ecosystem convening will be at the Fort Hall Reservation in Oct. We are Currently looking to hire 3 Hub coordinators for Regions 1 & 2 (North Idaho); Regions 4,5,6 (East and SE Idaho); Region 3 (SW Idaho).

Dave asked how we are tracking the Diploma seal. Kaitlin answered that we only know how many seals we send out and we are able to track how many students are eligible to receive the diploma.

**Foundation update:** Joanna provide the updates. Our goals included building board membership and understanding our role in the state. We have identified new board members. Leadership positions were voted on at the last meeting and Laurie Anderson is now Chair, Nick Aldinger is now the Vice Chair/Secretary and Molly Pricket is now Treasurer. The board is building out committees as needed.

FY21: We were unsure how Covid would affect donations. We have raised almost \$1.2M despite Covid. The Public Private Partnership (P3) program is a big part of amount raised. Dee asked if the 45% increase is new people or increase in amount donated. Joanna responded that we had a large P3 with the Idaho Community Foundation (ICF) which accounted for a large portion of the increase. We also had new donors that helped with sponsorships. She further informed the Board that most of our donations are from corporations. We also conducted two statewide campaigns: Idaho Gives and our annual year end campaign, both of which increased as well.

Reported expenses are only funding expenses directly paid to STEM AC for the programs. P3, PD and competitions are the top internal programs that donations go to with P3 being the largest. Joanna reported that our Top Donors are growing in size. New donors included Spokane Teachers, ENCORE.org, Boys & Girls Club of Lewiston, and Idaho Community Foundation. Support trends: FY21 our top donor support came from ICF. Further we now have a more diverse donor community for FY21 and have increased the number of donors and broadened the gift range. Additionally, we have several new employer matching programs from Hewlett Packard, T-Mobile, and Lamb Weston.

Grants: AT&T gave funding to help provide Drone equipment for the summer PD. Bayer supported i-STEM. Rocky Mountain Power Foundation supported i-STEM for the second year. We are applying to the Murdock Charitable Trust for the first time to support Ecosystem infrastructure. Other grants we are awaiting award for include ICF and Bonneville Power Administration. Currently we are working on a National Science Foundation grant for \$150K - \$3M and Brady Education Foundation grant for \$100K.

Joanna shared a graphic that highlighted our top partners commenting that it looks very different this year. New partners include Bayer, Bank of Idaho, Optum and Clearwater, to name a few.

Jeff commented that it is great to see the increase in the number of donors. What do we attribute that to? Joanna believes that corporate grants helped raise awareness which led to an increase in the number of donors. Additionally, we have a more structured annual giving program, as well as Idaho Gives.

### **Strategic Plan, Performance and Budget:**

Kaitlin explained that we are required to develop a strategic plan and performance report each year. We are adjusting our objectives this year to align with where we are headed and to align with the Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee (JFAC) expectations. We started the conversation with the staff by looking at the legislation that governs us and also legislation we are tasked with collaborating with other agencies on. Kaitlin highlighted Idaho Code 67-823 Section 5. This outlines what we are directed to do as an agency. Key words in the section include Coordinate, Align, Work cooperatively. We then looked at our Mission and Vision statements. We have been working on amending both. We amended the Mission by removing engineering and replacing it with “To advance”. The Vision statement needed more clarity. The re-write is aligned to workforce development and long-term Idaho prosperity. Dee added that she sees the Vision statement as a long-term goal and the Mission statement is how we get there. Board comments supported the change in both the Mission and the Vision statements. Wendi commented that our mission/vision compliments the Workforce Development Council’s. Jennifer asked about keeping Computer Science and STEM separate within the Mission. Kaitlin responded that for funding purposes it is good to keep them separate. Dee stated that with no further discussion these changes were agreed upon.

**Goals:** Kaitlin has rearranged the order of the Goals. First step is **awareness**, then attend a program they have **access** to and these **align** to the future workforce. This creates a better long-term plan. All goals are dependent on each other. Short term is awareness for student, parents and teachers as well. Goals will remain the same as in the past, but the objectives will be changed. Joel commented the flow of the goals makes more sense. Dee commented on the amount of work needed to address each goal and our capacity to do so. Kaitlin responded that we will address one goal at a time over the next 3 years.

**First Goal:** Awareness. The objectives have been rewritten for the first goal. Objective 1A: Increase awareness, interest, value of STEM and Computer Science. Performance metrics are the value of media, reach and getting message out. Awareness is the focus for this year. Kaitlin stated that our discussion around this goal revolved around identifying specific age range to address or not. Wendi commented on the importance of homing in on awareness at this point but not to decide about the age of the audience. Jake commented on making sure the goals can be measured. We need to have benchmarks that we can report out on. Kaitlin acknowledged Crispin’s great work in data collection and analysis. Crispin added that the performance metrics in the strategic plan and performance plan for JFAC will be more quantifiable. For internal use will have more qualitative metrics for objectives. Dee clarified for Goal one the metric is value and reach of earned media. Jake commented that he remembered the number of schools involved, number of impacts were used in the past as a metric. Kaitlin responded that we are trying to move away from the number of students/teachers impacted because we could not properly measure the impact of the interaction. Jennifer wondered about using a before and after survey to measure the impact. Kaitlin responded that we have used them in the past, but the media metric was geared around a larger audience. Dee: Are you thinking about reaching rural communities explicitly as a new audience? Kaitlin responded we have not done that officially in the objective, but it is part of the conversation. Wendi asked where did the goals come from, Legislation or executive order? Kaitlin stated they are not in the legislation - this is an interpretation made by the previous Executive Director and they have been around for 3+ years and previously approved by the Board.

**Second Goal:** Advance equitable access. Kaitlin stated that Obj 2A ties directly into the legislation. Obj 2B Identify, pilot and support STEM also ties into the legislation. We tied the 3rd objective into first for simplification. Third is Obj 2C: improve internal knowledge on how to improve access and broaden participation in STEM, CS education and workforce development.

Performance Metrics: Percentage of recommendations from statewide strategic STEM plan that are implemented each year.

Dee commented on the importance of equitable access across the state. Jeff would be interested in seeing the Strategic STEM plan and how it is developed and funded and does the metric adequately measure the goal? Wendi commented on using the amount of money invested in programming year over year as a metric. The overall increase in the pie is important not just the increase in individual professional development participation. She added that it is important to provide JFAC with the information on increased funding and where it is flowing statewide. Erica wondered if we use our partners and the Ecosystem to run programs how do we accurately report the impact to JFAC. We need to be able to tell the direct and indirect impact story. Jennifer commented on the importance of equitable access and questioned if there is a way to parse out underrepresented populations? Kaitlin commented that it would be difficult to track because it would rely on self-reporting which creates a data security issue. Geographic representation can be a proxy measure for the underrepresented populations.

**Third Goal:** Kaitlin: Obj 3A coordinate on-ramps for industry involvement: Obj 3B identify and support industry-led STEM like the AWS opportunity. Obj 3C Coordinate opportunities for students and teachers like the externship program.

Metrics: # of collaborative industry funded proposals and # of externs

Dee commented that this all seems very straightforward and aligns with the goal and objectives. Kaitlin commented that the incoming funds have been used in the past and would not be reported going forward. How does this impact report to JFAC? Dave stated this should be fine.

**FY23 Budget:** The FY23 budget is due at the end of August. Each agency has been allowed to ask for 3.1% increase. We are in conversations with Dept. of Finance Management and the Governor's office regarding the increase and one-time funding from the surplus.

We are considering requesting one new FTE (Foundation FTE) and funding for the ecosystem, programming and computer science. The Foundation FTE could be the Foundation Executive Director which would reduce the workload on the volunteer status of Kaitlin and Sondra. Jake commented that with the surplus this is the year to go for the new FTE. Wendi stated that we need to show how it will increase the amount of money coming into the Foundation in addition to reducing workload.

### **BOARD UPDATES: Work Force Development Council (WDC)**

Wendi provided the WDC update. WDC received \$1.5M approved funding for several programs. They are anticipate being able to serve at least 600 Idahoans thru LAUNCH with this funding. Additional approval for \$50K to support the teacher externship program. Further, approval for \$250K to invest in outreach. The Governor's Annual conference, Age of Agility will be held on October 12<sup>th</sup>. The conference will use the same format as last year by broadcasting via Idaho Public TV which allowed for a much broader attendance throughout the state not just in person at the conference center as in the past.

Katy Solace provided the update on Next Steps Idaho (NSI): NSI has undergone a huge evolution over last year which launched last august for all of Idaho. Students/counselors can now connect at the High

School level and use this website as they move forward. She highlighted several of the tools on the website like the Plan Smart tool. The Career Card tool will allow the person to assess whether a career they are thinking of entering is right for them. She also highlighted the Career Technical Education programs directory which will be available for HS and Technical schools. Dee asked about maintaining the website since things change so rapidly. Katy answered that it will be refreshed regularly using Airtable. In addition, they are working on mini-instructional videos. WDC is actively engaged in a media outreach and awareness program with State Board of Education for Next Steps Idaho which has been highly successful. Katy provided information about Nepris who specializes in virtual classroom tours with companies through Linked-In. Nepris allows classrooms to see firsthand what is going on in a business and talk with employees about their jobs and careers. These videos will also be available thru a library. Kaitlin commented that this would be a great site to link out to from STEM AC website.

### **State Board of Education: (SBE)**

Dave Hill provided a brief up about Online Idaho which is provides an online education for students anywhere in Idaho. There are eight institutions of higher education that can be accessed. In addition Students now have common financial aid application. Currently working on adding cyber security courses which will be the first full degree available on Online Idaho. Online Idaho works in concert with Launch Idaho allowing anyone to identify interest, a future career and how to get there. Dave briefly discussed the issue of Critical Race Theory in our schools. SBE has found no evidence of indoctrination of students in the school and share that there are many protections against this happening in the classroom already.

**Board Chair and Vice Chair Nomination/Vote:** Kaitlin explained that due to our by-laws we vote each year on Chair and Vice Chair: Jennifer nominated Dee for Chair and Wendi seconded. Dave nominated Jennifer for Vice Chair and Wendi seconded. Dave moved and Wendi seconded both nominations. Both were unanimously elected to serve. Dee Mooney will be Chair and Jennifer Jackson Vice Chair.

**Public Comments:** We received one question from the public via email. Where can the statewide strategic STEM plan developed for the Idaho STEM Ecosystem be found? Kaitlin answered that this is in the works now but not yet available.

### **Support needed from the Board:**

Introduce us to STEM Supporters/ P3 partners/ mentors/ follow us on our Social Media platforms

### **Upcoming Events:**

Next board meeting: Cory to send out Doodle Poll for October meeting

Ecosystem Convening at Fort Hall reservation Oct-14-15

Idaho Cybersecurity Summit: Oct. 19 -20

SBOE: Kaitlin will present Oct. 20 -21

### **Adjournment:**

Dee thanked all attendees and adjourned at 3:26