

STEM Action Center
Board Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2021 1 pm - 3:30 PM
Zoom Meeting

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 1:06 pm on Oct. 27, 2021

Roll Call

The **STEM AC Board** meeting was conducted via Zoom. On the Zoom meeting were Dee Mooney, Jennifer Jackson, Jad Mahnken

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

STEM Action Center Contractors: Cory Compton, John McFarlane

Guest Speaker: Caty Solace

Absent: Dave Hill, Joel Wilson. Jake Reynolds, Wendi Seacrist

Opening remarks: Welcome by Dee

Past Board Minutes Approved: We will need to approve January meeting minutes due to the lack of a quorum.

Goal Updates: Kaitlin

We had two board members resign due to them taking jobs outside of Idaho. Kaitlin is working with Governor's office to appoint new members. One potential new member from Region 4 and another to represent North Idaho.

STEM AC Program and Initiative Updates:

- **Main goal for this year:** Increase awareness of STEM and why it matters.
- **Hour of Code:** Kaitlin is working with the Governor's office and Micron. If you know any other organizations who would be interested in participating let Kaitlin know.
- **i-STEM Library update:** The libraries include an online catalog, videos, instructional materials, etc. This is where the donated Micron material will sit. Communication about the library has gone out via press releases and our social media platforms. Dee commented that it will be interesting to see the data on use of the libraries. Kaitlin said now that there is an online catalog, we can track the use more easily. We have not received the Micron donated material yet but will promote widely when we do.
- **INDEEDS Update.** Winners were Kellie Taylor from Hawthorne Elementary and Sarah Oosterhuis
- **Rural Community:** This is an amazing opportunity. Erica and Kaitlin attended the Grangeville event. Erica shared that we consistently see strong partnerships form as a result of these

opportunities. New partnerships would not be happening without this type of workshop. Idaho Library of the year Oneida District Library in Malad. This project encouraged them to engage in the community in new ways and forge new partnerships. 1200 kits created and available for the Payette community through this program. Dee asked if these workshops are all libraries. EC said they were hosted by libraries the first year of the program but now includes schools and libraries. All are held in the community to meet the community where they facilitate the conversation. Jeff and Francesca facilitate.

- **STEM Leadership Professional Development:** Has been pushed back due to Covid. John provided the update. Teams from seven schools (31 participants total) will be taking part in the training put on by Educurious. In person trainings are scheduled for January (Boise), March (Idaho Falls), and May (Boise) with virtual meetings in-between.
- **BSU Early STEM:** Very successful initiative that we are wrapping up. Erica provided the update. The initiative was to be a two year program but is in year three due to Covid. We are seeing amazing output and outcomes from the project initially working with the BSU Center to train staff and integrate STEM into the younger ages birth to 5. Additionally, several videos have been created that are great. Also started early STEM inquiry-based learning open access course for credit. Additionally implemented certificate around the inquiry-based learning (IBL) and provide scholarships to join a cohort around IBL. The open access course will allow many to attend.
- **STEM School Designation:** We have 6 designated schools and 4 will be ready for designation in the spring. On average, 2-3 schools per year are ready for designation each year. Schools thru the leadership training and work with BSU and then go through the process to receive the designation. We have asked for additional funding in next year's budget to support this program.

Ecosystem Update. The Ecosystem was launched in 2020. Kaitlin provided a timeline and overview of how the Ecosystem came about, shared the aspirational statement, the reason for establishing the Ecosystem and the focus for the Ecosystem and the infrastructure that has been put into place. Kaitlin also informed the board that we are part of the national ecosystem network called the STEM Learning Ecosystem Community of Practice (SLECoP). New in this calendar year we launched the regional hub structure based on Idaho's education regions. The STEMAC serves as the backbone to the hubs. The hubs consist of a governing board and local groups who will take the work forward. We created a governance group that is representative of the state and to provide guidance to the hubs. We recently contracted a hub coordinator for each region who is responsible for the management of the hub. The Ecosystem also has Strategic Priority Working Groups to define the goals and do the work of the ecosystem. The groups are Educator Preparation, Training and Support, Career Pathways and Exposure, Communications and Public Awareness, and Access and Opportunities. These working groups were established in January of 2020 and meet monthly to further the vision of the Ecosystem. Next steps for the Ecosystem are development of data/metrics system to measure collective impact and develop a funding structure. STEMAC serves as the backbone organization of the Ecosystem and has an internal team that meets regularly to support the Ecosystem. We conducted a needs analysis within the Ecosystem in collaboration with the Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM (TIES). They created a report identifying the needs of our state. The report is in a draft report and welcome input. Webinars are being developed in lieu of an in person meeting this fall. This was a better way to communicate instead of a ZOOM meeting all day. Kaitlin asked for questions: Goals of the Ecosystem and STEMAC how do they fit together? Goals of Ecosystem will be developed by the stakeholders in the Ecosystem. The STEMAC acts only as member and support. It is likely that the goals for each hub will be very similar but they may be different. We are still defining the line between the STEMAC and the Ecosystem and formalizing the relationship between STEMAC and the hubs. Jennifer commented that there is a distinct identity of each hub and asked if we have seen

that distinction? Kaitlin responded we anticipate the local work will be different depending on the region which is why we need to ensure communication between groups is clear. The survey is helping to define regions and what they need. Dee commented that it is good to keep asking questions as the Ecosystem is developing and it will be interesting to see the data and metrics. Information needs to be digestible and clear. Crispin reiterated the STEMAC is a member of the Ecosystem and the data and metrics are going to be derived from goals of the state and the hubs. Homing in on the goals is critical to getting good data. We have used the Oregon Ecosystem as a model to see what has worked. The national SLECoP convening will be in person in June and Kaitlin invited the board to attend if they wish. We have seen at the national level other Ecosystems include their partners at the national convenings. Additionally, Kaitlin invited the board to be involved in working groups if they wish. Kaitlin also asked for board input as we develop the funding strategy for the Ecosystem.

No Break:

STEM Matters: Kaitlin provided a brief description of pre-COVID STEM Matters events. Last year was a weeklong virtual event. This year we will reimagine it with a weeklong virtual format and one day in-person event at the Capitol. Scaled down version of STEM Matters Day at the Capitol. More intentional connections. Meet with legislators, perhaps have them meet with kids, host luncheon and speaker. Directing the legislators to meet with industry and students who have benefitted from STEM. Jennifer voiced her support for the more intentional approach. We may still have students there to showcase their work. Kaitlin commented that safety concerns were part of this decision. Some of our partners are still restricted in their attendance of events like this. We are prepared to shift gears if we need to. The virtual event allows us to reach more people but a presence at the Capitol is important.

Board Member Updates/Open Discussion:

Jad: Programs we are looking to develop will be regional with schools and other hospitals. Goal for program work development to find good paying jobs in the community. Two areas where there is flexibility is within the imaging fields. Developing a shorter associates degree for ultrasound. This program has been put on the backburner due to Covid, but we are hoping to refocus and work with local schools to develop programs like this to serve the needs in hospitals. Treasure Valley would be the pilot program and then broaden out to the rest of the state. Perhaps can promote this in high schools to encourage graduates to earn this degree. There are no schools with an echo program in Idaho. Developing a similar program for echo. Start with BSU and then expand to rest of the state. Biggest barrier to these programs is the cost to the technology. Need students to be able to use the technology. Smaller schools are hindered by high start up costs. Jennifer will connect Jad with College of Eastern Idaho where they are working on their health science programs. Dee commented that Next Steps Idaho through the WDC could be helpful too.

Jennifer: Idaho Indian Education Summit: June 9-10, 2022, at Fort Hall. Last year it was virtual. Looking for partners in education for sponsorship, learning strands. Perhaps the STEMAC should support the event. Looking also for industry sponsorship support. Email Jennifer if you have any interest or ideas on support of the event. Five tribes in Idaho. One goal is to help educators be more culturally sensitive in education and STEM in particular.

Caty Solace: WDC approved a grant request from ITC for \$75K each year for two years to support Nepri as a white label on Next Steps Idaho. Brings interactive experiences into the classroom. Also provides a matching opportunity to bring in requested experiences which would be very helpful for rural communities. The partnership will be called Next Steps Idaho Connections. Using Oregon as a model. In Idaho each school will have a license and pay a subscription based on the size of the school. This will be a

public private partnership. Definition of a school can be expanded for rural communities. Questions: Dee- are the careers students are experiencing just Idaho or nationwide? They get access to the entire database. Dee: Have career counselors asked for something like this or is this something that has to be pushed to the counselors to use? It was not something specifically asked for but there is a need. Dee: Is Next Steps being used and is there data to demonstrate the use? Yes, we are seeing the use numbers of Next Step grow. Dee, can you pull data on regional use? Yes, we can at the regional level and will look into if can drill down to the county. Kaitlin- do you know how many industries are part of Nepris or do you need our help getting companies to participate? Yes, we may need help.

Caty's Links: <https://www.nepris.com/partners/list>

https://youtu.be/kyHxcxoJ_iE

<https://oregonconnections.nepris.com/home/v4>

Federal Funding due to Covid: Kaitlin working with partners on ARPA funding for summer STEM learning and unfinished learning.

Support needed from the Board:

Kaitlin asked the Board to connect her with 3 people or organizations to assist in our efforts to raise awareness of STEMAC and the work we do. Connections can be one-on-one or a presentation to a group. Further we are always looking for the P3 connections.

Upcoming Events:

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

Giving Tuesday: November 30th

CS Education Week and Hour of Code is Dec. 6th – 12th. If you are hosting HOC events let us know and we will share out.

STEM Matters Virtual Event week of January 17th and in-person January 18th

Jennifer asked who the contact for HOC is? Kaitlin then provided the staff update sharing that Finia had left STEMAC and she would now be the HOC and CS contact until we fill the position. We have posted the position to replace Finia.

Dee stated her appreciation for board attendance and asked that them continue to look for ways to support the STEMAC.

Adjourn 2:40