

STEM Action Center
Board Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2022 1:00 – 2:30 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 1:02 pm on April 22, 2022

Roll Call

The **STEM AC Board** meeting was conducted as a hybrid meeting in person in the STEM AC conference room and via Zoom. Attendance: Dee Mooney, Jad Mahnken, Steven Christensen, Wendi Secrist, Jake Reynolds, Joel Wilson, Ed Atienza

STEMAC Foundation: Dodd Snoddgrass, Molly Dimick

STEM Action Center Staff: Kaitlin Maguire, Erica Compton, Crispin Gravatt, Katie Bosch-Wilson

STEM Action Center Contractors: Cory Compton, John McFarlane

Absent: Dave Hill and Jennifer Jackson

Opening remarks: Welcome by Dee

Introduction of new team members: Kaitlin the new STEM and CS Program Manager -Katie Bosch-Wilson. Provided her background and experience.

Approval of Board Minutes: Motion to approve July minutes: Wendi. Seconded by: Steve. Approved unanimously.

STEM AC Program and Initiative Updates: Kaitlin

Goal 1: Awareness

We are spending more time on our Awareness goal. To improve outreach, we are currently undergoing a communication audit. Good move for us as we mature as an agency. We will present results at next meeting. We have a YouTube channel which can be found on our website. Great videos available to utilize for outreach and awareness.

Goal 2: Opportunity

INDEEDs award is now open. Katie is overseeing the program.

IDX: Erica provided an update. Teachers are trained during i-stem and then create student teams to compete. This year was about problems to solve around Space. Highlighted some of the winning teams and their projects.

IDSEF: KM highlighted the success of the competitions across the state and that several will be going on to the international competition.

Chief Sciences Officer: Students become a STEM Ambassador and will participate in the Ecosystem to provide student voice across the state. Several CSOs will join the spring convening next week. Important to have the student's voice. Dee commented that this is a wonderful opportunity for students. Currently John is the point of contact. Will be on the website soon.

STEM School Designation. We have several more going thru the process and will receive the designation this fall. We have 10 in the pipeline. Thanks to Micron for provided additional support to coach schools.

STEM School Diploma: this is the first year we have provided Scholarships to eligible students that will receive a STEM diploma. 10 applicants were awarded. Eight are from rural school districts.

Grants and Fundraising: Continue to bring in funds from industry partners.

Legislative session: Kaitlin reported that there was no legislation this session directed at the STEM AC. FY23 Appropriation was approved. In addition, we are receiving funds from the American Rescue Plan ESSER III Funds. The total is \$2M for out of school and summer programming. We are collaborating with ION and ICfL for the administration of these fund which need to be spent by September 2024. Questions from board members: Is it a grant we apply for? It is a grant we will run with two opportunities.. We have these funds for 2 fiscal years. Looking for advice on the administration of funds so please share your advice. Program team to administer fund. Dee wondered if board members could be part of the team. Working closely with ION and ICfL to make sure there is no duplication. ION will help us evaluate recipients of funds so we can provide impact reports to the State and to recipients. Jake would be happy to provide advice on how to provide grants and reporting requirements. Steve asked if this grant would allow for wages. Unsure at the moment if wages could fall under this grant at this time but Kaitlin is working with OSBE to be in compliance. Jake is there any legislative oversight of these funds. We report to OSBE.

National Legislative Update: A bipartisan bill to support STEM ecosystems. We are working with the governor's office to support this legislation. Senators Crapo and Risch have signed on. There is an advocacy tool kit. Letter from the STEM Coalition with details about other legislation.

- **STEM Restart legislation:** Addresses adult population entering the STEM workforce.
- **America Competes Act and US Innovation and Competition Act:**

We could potentially apply for some of these opportunities. Computer Science would be a primary one to go for.. We feel confident that we could apply for these. We may need assistance in managing a grant should we receive one.

Workforce Needs in Food Processing: Steve presented (Idaho Milk Products). Jerome HS is near their facility. Trying to create a permanent pipeline. Promote company and long-term employment opportunities. Developing relationships with HS counselors which is a weak link. They are not aware of opportunities that are available. Kicked off an apprenticeship program in machine operation. Steve explained in detail the apprentice program and its requirements. Not a time-based program but a competency program. They come out of HS as a journeyman. Students have the potential to make even more than their parents. Support students who would prefer to go into the skilled trades. Also support students who wish to intern or go onto college. Challenge now is how to reach more students. Students do not know the potential for high pay in these trades. Explained how they use interns and actively using SM to promote the success of the interns in their jobs. Provided a detailed timeline for the program.

Wendi shared that WDC can support issues that arise when working with underage students.

Kaitlin reported that INL is starting a very similar program with District 91 and Jennifer will present that next meeting.

Employer/School District Partnerships Example: INL and IMP are great examples, Kaitlin reported that Jennifer will provide a report next meeting.

WDC Funding Update and Talent Pipeline Management Program Discussion: Wendi shared that INL gifted \$1M to CEI. Wendi shared Next Steps Connections and how to integrate information into schools. Platform for teacher to request specific presenters such as how does the work a certain industry does apply to what is being taught in schools. With funding of \$80K now 30 schools now using the platform. Virtual visits to classrooms are recorded and become part of a video library that can be accessed by any teacher in Idaho. Can also record tours of facilities and provide those to schools. Steve asked how schools get the information about all these different opportunities. Governor recommended \$50 million in workforce training over next 2 years. \$24M was approved for this year. Gave a detailed accounting of how these dollars would be spent. Explained what TPM is and the methodology behind it.

Board Member Updates/Open Discussion

Ed provided information about the latest FIRST robotics event he was able to attend. Felt we need to reach out to elementary and middle schools to get greater attendance and therefore more interest. Kaitlin noted that we support this program each year.

Upcoming Events: Kaitlin reported that i-STEM is coming up in June. The Board is welcome to join us. Gave a brief explanation of what i-STEM is and how it impacts teachers. Katie provided a more detailed overview of the program.

Next board meeting will be the annual meeting and there will be some housekeeping items to address.

The STEM Ecosystem Spring convening is next week and the first in-person in 2 years. Doing a lot of intentional networking.

National Ecosystem Convening in June. Several team members are attending.

Dee thanked all who attended and particularly for providing such valuable information for the meeting.

Adjourned at 2:32