

**STEM Action Center**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 20, 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 July 20, 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, Dave Hill, Jennifer Jackson

**DFM:** Erik Olson

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

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

**Opening remarks:** Welcome by Dee

**Approval of Board Minutes:** Motion to approve April minutes: Dave. Seconded by: Jake. Approved unanimously.

**STEM AC Program and Initiative Updates:** Kaitlin

**Goal 1: Awareness**

Kaitlin provided information about the communications audit with Volume PR that we have been conducting over the past few months. VPR's report will be out next week. They provided a one-day training on how to impact our audience and change their behavior to engage effectively with us.

**Goal 2:** Another very successful summer for i-STEM. Not as many attended which was partly due to post-COVID recovery and willingness of educators to attend in person.

**Learning Blade:** Kaitlin provided an update and explanation of the program. 140 schools have signed up. Learning Blade also participated in i-STEM which was a phenomenal success. They also have a program called Career Blade. Completed year one of a 3-year contract. Goal is to have funding to continue to provide CS to schools for free. Funded now from Covid funds. Dave commented on the Governor's office is looking at the need for ongoing funding of programs because many programs have used Covid funding for new programs. Dave recommended

approaching the Governor's office early as one of the agencies with a similar financial situation. Kaitlin stated this has been a good investment. \$270K for first year.

**Amazon Web service:** Katie shared the update and brief explanation of the program. It is a training for educators and students. Presently we are concentrating on educators who will receive training and a cloud computing certificate. The hope is to support rural schools to provide computer science in schools. 32 schools are now signed up. Basin School District has had a couple of students in High School go through the AWS training as well. Increasing educators training first, then start with students and then include secondary schools. Universities are at different points around the state. Some are offering AWS on their work force development side while others are integrating it into their credited side of things. All universities I have spoken with are having a similar issue in finding qualified individuals to teach AWS.

Wendi: provided feedback on AWS. Talked to a local CEO. Their company sent 3 folks through training. They questioned that this is not enough. Wondered if they would move beyond the intro cloud computing. Katie responded there is a plan for training beyond HS and depends on what universities or colleges you are looking at. Across the state there will be more advanced training depending on the school. Wendi suggested AWS could integrate advance training funding in Launch Idaho. Dave was sure if ISU knew about the certification versus a 4-year degree they would be interested. There could be a cybersecurity course as well. We are not looking to rely on IDLA so that rural teachers are available in person for rural students. In depth discussion on how best to advance this program in the state ensued.

**Externship program:** This very successful opportunity is currently running. We did have several businesses and externs drop out this year due to various reasons outside of STEM AC's control. We would like to work with Wendi and WDC to expand the program next year.

**Idaho Ecosystem:** Continues to grow and evolve. We conducted our first in person convening in April since 2020. Participants and staff had great conversations. We now have a leadership team that is working on a Strategic Plan which we hope to roll that out this fall. Dee asked if the Ecosystem strategic plan will be aligned with STEMAC's. Kaitlin commented they are separate but are naturally aligned. STEMAC sits as one member of the leadership team. Kaitlin will present side by side comparison of the strategic plans at the next board meeting.

## **FY2022 Performance Report: Kaitlin**

### **Awareness:**

Media Goal was \$800K in earned media but actual was \$2M. Provided the comparison of year over year increase.

### **Access:**

STEM School Designation: Baseline FY 2022 was 6 schools and our target was 9 schools. Due to COVID delays, the actual number was 7 and there are four ready for approval in FY 2023.

**Alignment:**

P3 Funding: FY 2021 funded 48 proposals. The FY 2022 target was 50 and the actual was 47.

Externships: FY 2021 baseline was 26. FY 2022 target was 30 and FY 2022 actual number of externs was 27.

**Fundraising and Expenditures:**

Total FY 2022 Funds raised was \$1.8M.

Total In-Kind was \$2.5M including media coverage, volunteer hours, goods and services. We calculate volunteer hours at \$35/hr.

Kaitlin gave breakdown of actual operating expenditures and broke them out by goals.

**FY 2023 Strategic Plan** submitted July 1<sup>st</sup> and is in the board packet for review.

**Legislation:** No new legislation has been brought forth for FY 2023, yet. Kaitlin asked for any ideas for FY 2023 legislation. None were provided. Possibility of a bill to have Computer Science (CS) as a High School graduation requirement. Several ideas and thoughts were discussed around the implementation and other concerns regarding CS as a requirement. We need to make sure we are a head of this possibility that we have things in place to adequately support it. Dave stated that the Governor has put a 3% cap on education spending. Is there a definition for a CS class? Kaitlin answered that any course that aligns with Standards qualifies as a CS course. If this does get legislated it would be implemented a few years out to allow time to determine what qualifies as a CS course. There are rural schools that do not offer CS courses. Kaitlin clarified there is no legislation that has been proposed, it remains at the discussion level. Discussed teacher compensation status in the state. Dave reiterated that we should focus on COVID funding and how to go forward.

**Strategic Approach:** Team has been working on how to better engage with individuals and organizations that do not know what STEM is and what the STEMAC does. Kaitlin presented our 5 areas of expertise; Collaboration and Connections; Analyzing STEM Impact; Connecting Different Organizations; Sharing Best Practices and Understanding the Gaps. In terms of best practices, we are engaged on a national level. The goal of this strategic approach is “In two years, our end users will regularly produce and /or utilize a variety of STEM opportunities in their communities and/or region.”

New theory of engagement: Instead of waiting for them to approach us we would get out in communities to meet them where they are and address their individual needs. Big component of this is following up and highlighting success. STEM AC services: increase resources and toolkits, define best practices, pilot programs, provide data and metric support, and media services. We want to play a big role in raising awareness.

Kaitlin briefly shared our 3 main commitments:

- Build human power to offer opportunities
- Help communities understand the value of STEM learning

- Provide support and services so communities can offer opportunities to learners

Implementation is key to the success of any strategic plan. Board Comments on SP: Dave offered that the SP is excellent! The quality and scope indicate the maturity of the agency and is a necessary evolution.

**FY2024 Budget:** Kaitlin said with the 3% budget increase we would like to propose 3 new FTE positions. First a foundation director position. It would be a net zero transfer. Second position would be a communications manager to manage our outreach. Lastly, possibly an office specialist but not likely part of this budget request. Cost of these positions are fully loaded. Board advised that we may want to go ahead and ask for the 3<sup>rd</sup> FTE due to federal funding available. Dee asked for clarification on the role of the foundation's development coordinator. Is it someone who works with donors? Kaitlin explained that this position would be like a development director working with donors and financial management will be a desired skill.

**STEM School Designation.** We work with an organization called Cognia to help us approve STEM schools. Their standards have changed from 16 to 10 requirements. John gave a brief background on Cognia as well as an explanation of their standard review and how they have changed over time. Now they have 10 standards with 4 broad categories. Most of the schools do STEM designation and school accreditation at the same time. Cognia wanted to ensure that the work was not duplicative. Idaho is the only state that offers standalone STEM certification. We have a lot of autonomy. Provided an overview of the 4 categories and the details. The change to 10 standards still aligns perfectly with what we are doing in Idaho. We will present these standards to the State Board of Education once the STEMAC board approves. Dave recommended that we provide a simple statement be delivered to the State Board of Education when seeking their approval. Dave moved to approve the new standards. Second by Jad. Unanimously approved.

**Nomination for Board Chair and Vice Chair:** Dee nominated Jennifer as chair, Wendi seconded, and Jennifer accepted. Vote on Chair accepted unanimously. Nomination for Vice Chair: Ed volunteered. Dave nominated and Wendi seconded. Unanimously approved. Kaitlin thanked Dee for her service as chair and as a long-standing board member.

### **Employer/School District Partnerships:**

Jennifer gave an update on the workforce development model that INL has implemented. They are preparing the workforce of the future not just STEM jobs like research but STEM adjacent jobs like a technician. INL is working with local high schools. This new program addresses how to train young people for STEM adjacent jobs. The goal is to prepare high school students to have a job at INL. Create a pipeline in industrial mechanical technology and trades. INL began working with Shoshone-Bannock Junior-Senior high school in 2021 to implement the program. INL is paying for the training of teachers which has been a good investment and would encourage other businesses to do the same. Also working with Idaho Falls School District to create other pipelines. INL employees have created the coursework and will become certified teachers at the end of the two years.

## **Board Member Updates/Open Discussion**

**Upcoming Events:** CSEd Con in Fort Lauderdale Sept 21-22. Welcome to join in on the conversation.

Trainings coming up are Educurious Project Based Learning Aug 1-2 in Boise and Oct 12-14 in Pocatello. Reach out to Kaitlin if you like to attend.

**Next meeting:** Discussed the idea of having the next meeting outside of Boise. Wendi reminded the board that the Governor's Age of Agility is on Oct 12. It was suggested to go to Schweitzer Engineering in Lewiston perhaps Oct 19-20 to coordinate with the State Board of Education meeting. Kaitlin will investigate this and let the Board know.

**Adjourned at 2:35**