Regions 1 & 2
EcosySTEM Hub

Development and Focus Groups Report
Presenters: Melinda Davis and Susan Stauffer
GREAT TEAMWORK!!

- Both regions
- Various sectors
- Nez Perce and Coeur d’Alene Tribes

Barb Mueller and staff, Gizmo in Coeur d’Alene * Bob Quant, NIC Comp Science * Steve Beyerlein, UI Engr * Rachel Jameton, Teaching and Learning Center LCSC * Christine Frei, Clearwater Economic Development Association * Kay Seven, Nez Perce Tribe * Ciarra Greene, Northwest Indian College * John Cattleman, Schweitzer Engr Labs * Sarah Walters, Science teacher in Riggins
Timeline

Nov: Identify partners and capture ideas in Padlet
Dec: Committee wrote and Gizmo submitted focus groups proposal to STEM AC
Jan: Focus group leaders identified invitees
Feb-Mar: Focus groups!
Apr: Focus groups summary
Future: Possibilities include:

- Consider the working groups’ goals being presented today
- Communicate what is available and desired within our regions
- Continue building our network
- Include student voice
- Survey broader sample of partners to further identify resources and needs
Goal: Information to guide the hub in setting mission and goals and developing a plan

Information Asked
- What programs are out there?
- What are primary reasons for engaging in STEM education?
- What are the opportunities and resources available to improve STEM education?
- What do you see as the need that a hub can help with?
- What are the barriers filling that need?

Partner Groups
- K-5 Educators
- 6-12 Educators
- Higher Education
- Business and Industry
- Nonprofit and Community Organizations
- Government and Agencies
- Students
General Findings

- Participation was good- but didn’t always represent both regions or diversity of roles/organizations
- Common expression of need for awareness of opportunities and/or resources and better communication
- Opportunity for better synergy between partner groups
- Student voice was somewhat limited and is an area where we could dive deeper
K-12 Educators

- K-5 utilize outdoors for STEM education - **Goal** to build excitement
- 6-12 recognize the importance of CTE - **Goal** to develop skills that they will need in the future
- **Opportunity** - provide teachers with more fundamental Science training OR with professional expertise from the communities
- **Need** for better awareness of who is out there and what they are doing - **Collaboration**
- **Barrier** - Lack of TIME for both teachers and students - competing with other activities
Higher Education

- **Goal** - getting students excited about STEM fields

- **Opportunities** (build relevance)
  - to develop “real world” skills
  - Integrate cultural knowledge

- **Need** for networks- to connect colleges and secondary schools and to connect with real world experts
  - Get rid of silos

- **Barrier**- TIME
Business and Industry

- Driven by workforce needs- **Goal** to fill the pipeline
- **Opportunity**- raise career awareness
- **Need** to provide real experiences/hands-on/lab work (relevance)
- **Barrier**- employers don’t know about the programs that are available
Government and Other Agencies

- **Goals**
  - Build Awareness of STEM careers
  - Build excitement

- **Opportunities**
  - Make STEM relevant
  - Place Based Education
  - Increase diversity and inclusion

- **Need** - Access to STEM expertise and resources for programs

- **Barrier** - Difficulty getting partners involved, no awareness of what others are doing
Nonprofit and Community Organizations

- **Goal** - Connect STEM education to career pathways
- **Opportunity** - Coordinate and connect industry and education
- **Need** - Conduit for information and hub for partners to connect
- **Barrier** - Time - competing with other activities
Students

- These students had positive STEM experiences
- Both in school and out of school
- Interest began early
- Educators played a huge role in motivating them
- Parents/family were supportive
- They want more hands-on and place based or outdoor opportunities
THANK YOU!

Contact Susan Stauffer to be added to the roster
Contact Melinda Davis or Susan Stauffer with any questions

sstauffer@uidaho.edu
melindadavis@uidaho.edu