

Idaho EcosySTEM Convening

Regional Happy Hour



Possible Discussion Options for Regional Happy Hour

- Ecosystem Funding Opportunity
- Ecosystem Commitments
- Regional activities, events, successes, new partnerships etc... to share
- Ecosystem Structure
- Regional Leadership
- Strategic Goals
- Data Insights



Guiding Aspirational Statement from January Convening

- *Original statement drafted at January Convening:*
The Idaho STEM Ecosystem will foster the integration of STEM in the educational experiences of all Idahoans, leading to the creation of problem-solvers and critical thinkers who will sustain and lead the Idaho economy of the future.
- *Updated with your feedback from September:*
The Idaho EcosySTEM fosters the integration of STEM experiences for Idahoans, creating problem-solvers and critical thinkers who will sustain and lead our economy.



Strategic Priorities and the Formation of Working Groups



1

Educator Preparation, Training & Support –

Focusing on finding new and better ways to prepare and support PreK-20 educators in STEM education. Building a database of available professional development opportunities for formal and informal educators in Idaho and working on developing materials to showcase the value of implementing STEM education in all disciplines.

2

Career Pathways & Exposure –

Focusing on further developing clear STEM career pathways for Idaho's youth. Building a database of resources to broaden awareness and assist in career pathways and exposure. The intent is to share the database with the larger asset mapping project.

3

Outreach & Communications –

Focused on external communication mechanisms. Provides guidance and insight on newsletter and website as primary mechanism for communication to partners. Provided feedback bright spots to highlight members. Reviewed and provided guidance on survey data.

4

Access and Equity –

Recently completed an educator survey to develop "persona mapping" of underserved student populations. Launching survey shortly and will share out results. Our goal is to identify barriers to access and develop strategies to overcome.

STEM AC's EcosySTEM Commitment:

“Idaho STEM Action Center commits to serving as the backbone organization of the Idaho STEM EcosySTEM and through this work will bring together partners from across the state to work towards an equitable STEM education plan for PreK-20.”

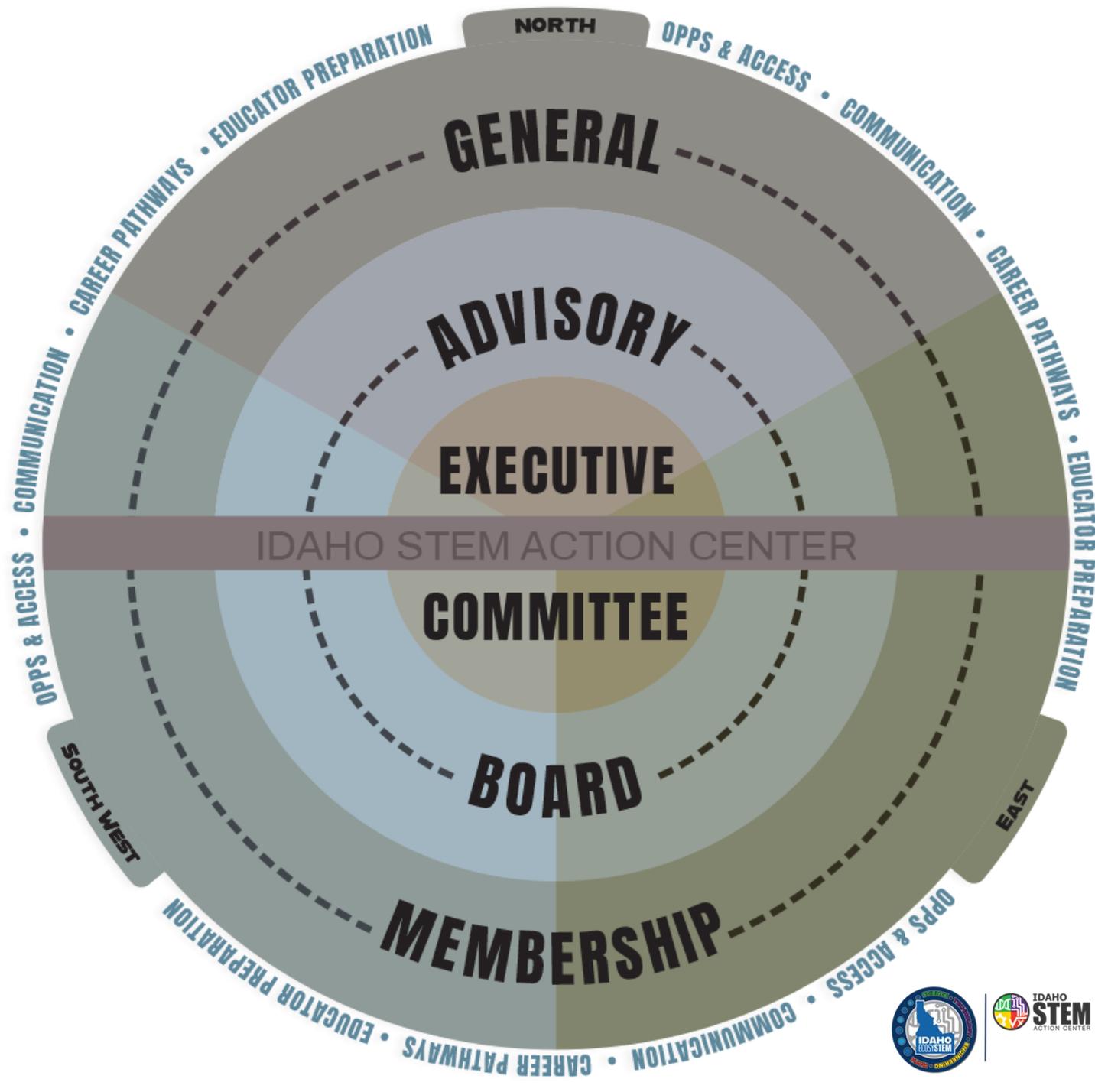


Proposal: Option 1

Primary efforts are focused on developing statewide ecosystem, with STEM AC serving as the backbone organization, included in conversations at every level to ensure effective communication of ideas. Affiliation with the General Membership, Advisory Board, and Executive Committee levels would include representatives from all geographic regions of Idaho. Executive Committee members would be the top decision-makers, including funding decisions, strategic direction, general membership roles and responsibilities, and would approve (with the Advisory Board) other ad hoc committees. Advisory Board members would focus on strategic direction. The Board may direct research and asset identification resources and deliver results and recommendations to the Executive Committee. Efforts may include statewide and regional foci. General Membership would participate in regional and topical discussions and focus on collaborative efforts related to conducting STEM-related work.

Pros: Strong communication between regional and statewide groups, centralized leadership means members know who to contact

Cons: Smaller Executive Committee membership, less immediate regional efforts (but will grow over time)



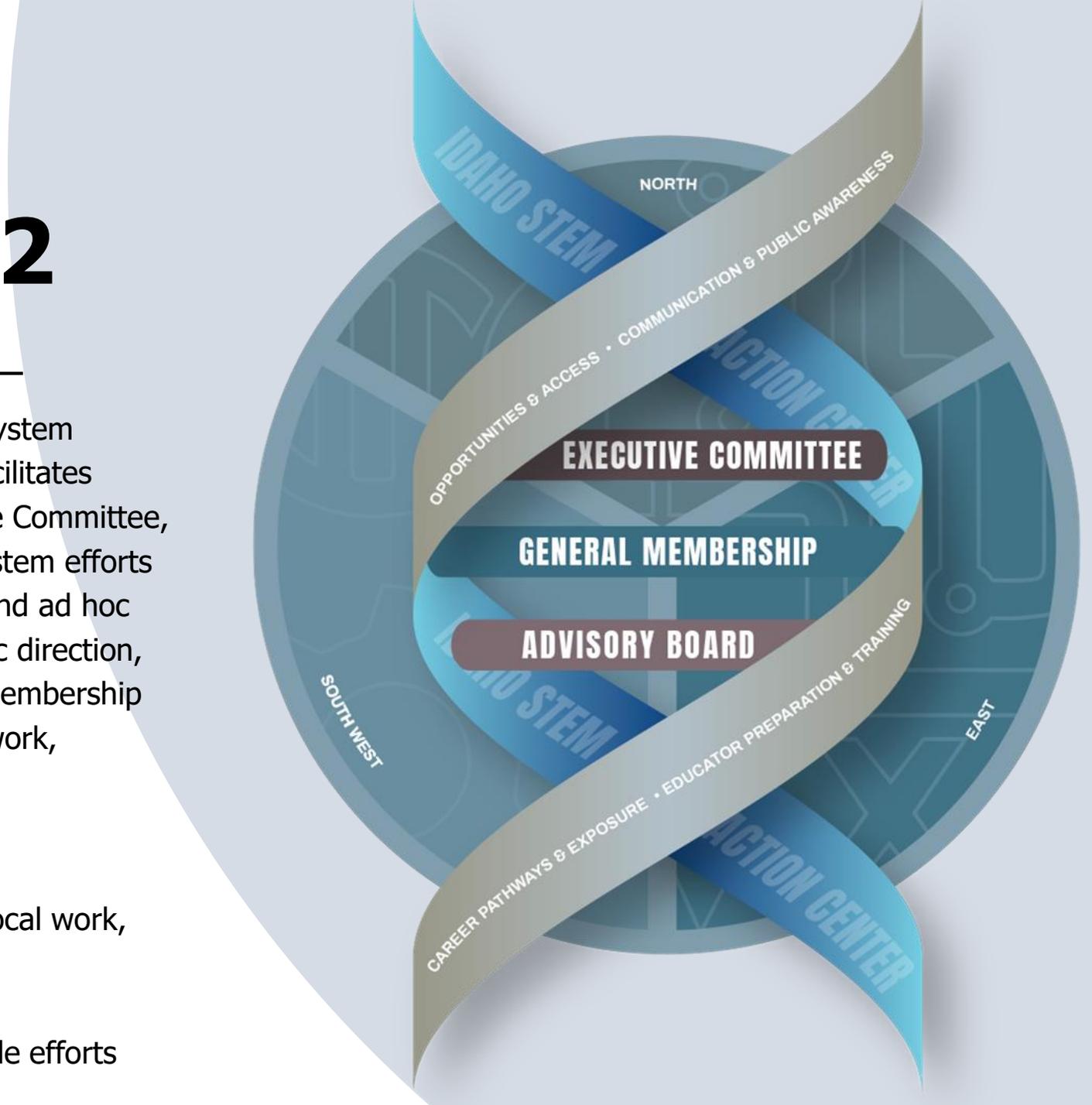


Proposal: Option 2

Efforts are split between statewide and regional hub ecosystem development. STEM AC, as the backbone organization, facilitates topical groups focused on strategic direction. An Executive Committee, comprised of ecosystem members, leads statewide ecosystem efforts and directs resources based on information from topical and ad hoc committees. The Advisory Board steers statewide strategic direction, and crafts long-term goals for ecosystem work. General Membership participates in regional and local efforts related to STEM work, including topical discussions, collaborative initiatives, and programming.

Pros: General members can focus on their regional and local work, with support from statewide groups,

Cons: Potential disconnect between regional and statewide efforts



Proposal: Option 3

Primary efforts are focused on regional hub development. Ecosystem members engage in regional and local discussions and participate in initiatives related to the specific needs and resources in their region. Strategic Goals Working Groups, comprised of members from all regions, bring perspectives, updates, and other information related to their area of focus to the Steering Committee. Strategic Goals Working Groups may also request resources and assistance from the Steering Committee to conduct their work. The Steering Committee is made up of members from each region and directs resources to regional hubs and working groups. STEM AC, as the backbone organization, supports initiatives related to the ecosystem.

Pros: Strong support for regional efforts

Cons: Less communication between regions, difficulty coordinating statewide initiatives



In Small Groups Discuss Each Proposed Idaho EcosySTEM Model



Which proposed Ecosystem model might work best for you/your organization?
Why?

What are your biggest concerns about the proposed Ecosystem models?

What methods of communication work best for you/your organization?
How might these work in the proposed Ecosystem model?

How can each proposed Ecosystem model measure progress or celebrate success?

What do current regional coordinated efforts look like in your region? How can the Idaho STEM Ecosystem models support and build upon this work?

Funding to Support Local Ecosystem Planning

- Regionally focused funding opportunity to develop local ecosystem efforts. Your regional group might decide to:
 - Identify and/or survey partners in your region;
 - Build stronger partnerships;
 - Establish methods for communication with statewide ecosystem;
 - Develop regional ecosystem sustainability and expansion;
 - Create a leadership structure and governance model;
 - Determine regional STEM goals and outcomes;
 - Identify needs and assets, etc;
 - Other ideas? Contact us!



Regional Planning Opportunity Details

- Develop idea with regional partners and apply starting on November 19, 2020 to the STEM AC grants portal
- Details related to scoring rubric will be included in the application portal
- Funding review process, ecosystem volunteer opportunity
- Regional planning work would occur Dec. – Mar. 2021
- Reporting would occur to the whole group at the spring convening and via STEM AC grant portal in April 2021
- Appropriate expenditures may include participant travel, meeting costs (virtual and in-person), and/or as attendee stipends for planning time
- Only one application per region, up to \$5,000 per region (up to six regions); successful planning efforts may qualify for additional funding in the spring
- Lead org must be an ecosystem affiliate (have attend at least one convening or working group) and have at least five regional partners (industry, education, OoS, etc)

