

**STEM Action Center
Board Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2022 1:00 – 2:30 pm
Zoom Meeting/ In Person STEMAC Conference**

Listen here to IPTV Stream: <https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/archive/#stem>

Call to Order

Chair Jennifer Jackson called to order the regular meeting of the STEM Action Center at 1:02 pm on October 12, 2022. Announced that Dr. Kaitlin Maguire has moved on from her position as the STEMAC Executive Director.

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: Jennifer Jackson, Dee Mooney, Jad Mahnken, Steven Christensen, Wendi Secrist, Tim McMurtrey, Ed Atienza,

Absent: Dave Hill, Jake Reynolds

DFM: Erik Olson

STEM Action Center Staff: Matthew Reiber, Erica Compton, Crispin Gravatt, Katie Bosch-Wilson, Sondra Chadd

STEM Action Center Contractors: Cory Compton, John McFarlane, Joanna Madden

Opening remarks: Welcome by Jennifer

Approval of Board Minutes: Motion to approve April minutes: Jad Seconded by: Ed Approved unanimously.

Update on Executive Director Position: Matthew Reiber, Office of the Governor

Introduced himself as interim director. No update on who the new ED will be. The Governor's office is close to final decision and waiting on HR. Hope to make an announcement in a week or two. Matthew offered that he is very accessible if needed. Jennifer asked how Matthew will be involved as interim. He advised that he is here to make sure the office continues to run smoothly and keep things on track to make transition to the new ED seamless.

STEM AC Program and Initiative Updates: Erica

We are embracing the word action and we are getting out and about in the communities around the state

Goal Updates: Erica

Erica stated she hoped everyone had the opportunity to review the updates on programs provided in the Board Report. Board members had no questions

Communication Audit Results: Erica

In August we completed the communications audit process with Volume PR and received a comprehensive report on ideas for improving engagement with our audience. We will be working with them over the next 6 months to modify our messaging, rework our social media, newsletter and improve our user's experience on the website. If anyone is interested in seeing the report, we will send it out. We are working to make the website easier to access, less verbiage and working with VPR to address other concerns and make messaging consistent across all platforms.

STEM AC Theory of Engagement: Erica

Improving both Awareness and Access – We provided an overview of our new Theory of Engagement in July – a result of our strategic planning sessions. We have begun the work of implementing this strategy to better reach those furthest from inclusion in the state, and to build sustainability within communities so they can do the work and expand. We have met with leadership of the Aberdeen Elementary and Middle Schools to help them achieve their goal of being the first STEM Designated district in the state. They will work to have all three schools STEM Designated. 30 of their staff completed our new STEM Discover PD on October 7th and the feedback has been exceptional. We will continue to meet and work with their team and develop an action plan to help them meet their goals per our new process.

Jennifer asked if they are part of the incoming cohort? Not yet the elementary school is the furthest along. They sent someone to Educurious which is a first step. Erica described the new pilot STEM Discovery workshops which is based on the Rural community engagement. This one was designed to help educators to be able to create their own authentic STEM activities. This is a pilot program in the works for 2 years. A game board was developed as part of the workshop. The workshop is free to educators. Going forward will offer one- or two-day workshops.

To be more proactive in engaging with communities, our team has been extremely busy doing outreach across the state. We are increasing our engagement with the Latinx communities and working more closely with our tribal schools and communities as well. Our Hub Coordinators are the boots on the ground throughout the state and they have been putting miles on their vehicles these past months attending school STEM nights, professional developments, community meetings, and more.

And we continue the work on our premier PD Institute - i-STEM 2023, also Educurious workshops, STEM scholarships and designations, and IDSEF.

With the new \$2million ESSERIII funding we are supporting schools and organizations as they help to tackle learning loss in out of school time. Our OST grant opened Oct 1 – first round of funding for grants from \$2500 - \$50,000. We will have a total of 4 rounds of funding for this specific grant. Question about grant reviewers? We are good at this point and have enough.

Workforce Alignment:

Supporting tools and services such as Learning Blade, Amazon Web Services, Teacher Externships helps us align with workforce needs. Learning Blade is in the last year of 3-year contract and will look to extend that if we can because it has been so successful. Especially for those who lack connectivity.

Foundation Updates: Joanna

Our foundation provides an avenue for industry to donate. All funds received by the foundation got to STEMAC programs. The foundation Board members have been very active. The board has gone through our fiscal policy procedures. We now have enough members to have an active finance committee. Joanna provided the projections for next year. We had a bump of \$200K. We will likely go beyond the FY23 projections. We have several grant writers, and our goal is to have a diverse set of grants in terms of timing and type of grant. Joanna shared information on the grants awarded and in process. We were not funded by the Dept. of Health & Welfare since we were not eligible. Jennifer asked if would it be helpful to have partner support when applying for NSF grants? Joanna said it would and we will reach out as needed.

Idaho STEM Career Education Pathways: Jad

Jad provided a description of a new program being supported by St. Als. The goal of the program is to find a better way to educate High School students regarding STEM job opportunities in their communities and provide a pathway to healthcare jobs. Sophomore/Jr year is best time to catch these kids to give them an idea of the opportunities and how to get there. Partner with business to provide these opportunities and highlight what internships or job opportunities exist and what the potential earning power is for these jobs. These partners would also offer students with scholarships, apprenticeships, externships and on the job training. In addition, information about what students need to do to prepare for these opportunities.

Part two of the presentation to students is to provide students with information about what STEM jobs are available across the state and the wages for these jobs. What they need to be successful. Provide them with in house training and ways to defer the educational costs. Can businesses support their education. Asked the board for input on whether we should pursue and what modifications could be made if any. Once everything is implemented, we would run this as a pilot have educators go out into the community educate the students that are there based on geographic proximity highlighting what is close.

Open to questions: Jennifer commented that this is an audacious goal this.... is a big statewide endeavor. Data is available from WDC and DOL dashboard called Tableau. Erica commented on utilizing hubs to help with this program. In-depth discussion on how industry can help with this program. Dee asked if there are any other programs like this in the state and who is running this? Jad stated that it will not be St. Als. Envision that it would be a combination of partners. Not aware of any programs like this in the state. Jennifer commented that Wendi and WDC could possibly help with this program and Dave as well. Steve commented that they should consider going down to the sophomore level to promote Jr internships. Sooner they get exposure the better. Katie offered to assist as needed. Jennifer added there is energy in and around a program like this because there is always a gap between business and education and what industry actually needs. Crispin commented that he learned about a similar program at a conference in Michigan. They had career trading type cards showing the career possibilities and how to access them.

Erica commented the 4 colleges have very well done videos displaying the careers in STEM.

Action: Maybe we could get an update at next meeting on Next Steps and metrics on Learning Blade.

Public Private Partnerships:

Jennifer stated that INL is a big fan of the P3 opportunity. This is a very powerful way for industry to donate and support STEM education in Idaho. Introduced the P3 process and asked Crispin to provide background and the status of the program.

Crispin stated that the P3 opportunity was born out of i-STEM support from industry than evolved into a way to leverage industry support. The general overview of the program is there exists a need in an educational environment and they have a partner to help support we then match a portion of their donation. The money is run through the AC or the Foundation. This allows us to double the impact across the state. We have honed the process which has taken a year. Now with the Ecosystem/Hubs we have more access to what is needed on the ground. We have now combined the application to include P3 and sponsorships to simplify. The general process is the same. We have a bit of a learning curve with this new process. Leaning on the Ecosystem Hubs to identify who we can target to bring new donors to the table. We are able to be more targeted in our support. We think this will give us broader impact. Jennifer shared she is very excited to see the change and how the impact has increased. Wondering how partners out there identify how to help. Crispin stated that it usually originates with program providers like librarians, classroom teachers etc. Joanna shared how our partners are participating in the P3 process. Erica added we are attending many conferences around the state and share the information about P3's particularly in the rural communities and how it works in their communities. Jennifer what are you looking for now as part of the criteria for funding? Crispin, we have more precision on the local level because of the Ecosystem with many hands making light work. It is a local driven process now. Erica we are also asking in the application if there other things the donor is doing beyond funding. Volunteering, mentoring etc. Crispin stated many industries are getting more hands on because they see the impact of their donations.

Sharing time talent and tools creates a deeper partnership. Crispin added we can act as a translator between partners, so we have clarity and understanding. We are also able to provide pilot programs and take a little risk and find out what works and what doesn't. We can have real Idaho grown programs. This is a year-round opportunity review once a month and award. Steve asked how many of the 22 in this round will be awarded. Erica the majority will be awarded and 2/3 were regionally cultivated. The decision is based on the quality of the application and the amount of money available. Ecosystems each have limits on funding. There is a tiering of funding that is strategic.

Idaho Ecosystem: Erica

Significant progress across the state with all 3 hubs. Having the HUB coordinators on the ground has been extremely important to meeting the needs of the community. Regional funding \$75k per hub for sponsorships and localized P3 opportunities for this fiscal year. Regional leadership teams are reviewing and determining funding.

We have been hosting a monthly webinar series and the last two months have highlighted the amazing work being done across the state through videos and expert panels. The purpose of the videos is show what is happening in STEM across the state. Erica shared a couple of snippets of the videos shared during the Idaho South & East Ecosystem webinars to show the incredible work being done. Board Members were encouraged to visit our website and check out the archived webinars.

Here are links to the videos:

Video 1:

<https://vimeo.com/748883894>

Video 2:

<https://vimeo.com/748850404>

Our Hub coordinators are very busy out in the communities.

STEM AC Strategic Plan: Erica

Leadership team has completed the STEM Strategic Action Plan – this is linked on our main ecosystem page if you would like to learn more. We are working with SPARK Strategic Solutions facilitating both the leadership team and the working groups forming currently. They will help guide the implementation of the plan over the next year. We are creating leadership teams and working groups to work on next steps.

The Ecosystem Spring convening is March 30-31 at the Shoshone Bannock so mark your calendars.

Link to Ecosystem Strategic Plan: <https://stem.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/ecosystem/Idaho-EcosySTEM-Strategic-Action-Plan-FINAL.pdf>

Upcoming Events:

Looking ahead. In addition to the convening, we have the ITC Gala and INDEEDS awards. We have 2 tables held on Nov. 2nd. Computer Science Education Week in December. Joanna updated that we are working with some partners on CS week and put together teams around the state. Katie provided an additional update: The governor will go out to one school to code with students again this year. This is the 10th anniversary and plan to celebrate with recruiting industry partners across the state. Code.org is awarding 2 \$10K grants to every state to encourage participation in the event. We will work with IDLA as well. Learning Blade is looking to partner with us as well. The goal of the week is to raise CS awareness. We will share how board members can participate soon.

Board Member updates:

Steve Christiansen: Need to change name spelling. It is “ian”.

No other updates.

Jennifer suggested we ask Dave and Wendi for update on the projects they are working on for our January meeting. A Doodle will be sent out to set the date.

Fundraising and Expenditures:

Sondra

Total revenue by both \$250,100. We usually see increases end of year.

FY24 budget request. Allowed to request a 3% increase. Use for one new position.

Foundation administrator. One FTP. Zero impact.

Communications manager one FTE \$83,300 new funding.

STEM Education for \$2M for ESSER and reimbursable

Timeline: submitted at the end of August but can still be revised at the end of this month.

Meeting adjourned at 2:31