

STEM Action Center
Board Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022 3:00 – 4:30
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 3:02 pm on January 18, 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, Jennifer Jackson, Jad Mahnken, Steven Christensen, Wendi Secrist, Dave Hill, Jake Reynolds, Joel Wilson, Ed Atienza

STEM Action Center Staff: Kaitlin Maguire, Erica Compton, Crispin Gravatt

STEM Action Center Contractors: Cory Compton, John McFarlane

Guest Speaker: Miche Kirkman, Kelly Packer and Rob McQuade

Absent:

Opening remarks: Welcome by Dee

Introduction of new board members: Ed Atienza for SEL, Inc and Steven Christensen Idaho Milk: Kaitlin provided the background on new board members. Ed is in research and development with SEL for 17 years. Educational Background U of I and has served on many committees. Lives in the Treasure Valley but will represent North Idaho. Ed made introductory remarks providing his work and academic background. Steven is VP of HR and has been with Idaho Milk for 4 years and before that with Glambia. Steven: Provided personal background and work experience and shared his belief on the importance of STEM to Idaho. Dee thanked them for their commitment and participation.

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

STEM AC Program and Initiative Updates: Kaitlin

Goal 1: Awareness

We are spending more time on our Awareness goal. Working with media partners. Outreach efforts are including more visits in communities particularly those that we don't reach traditionally. Using social media platforms.

Goal 2: Opportunity

i-STEM application will be open Feb. 4-March 6 and encouraged the board to help get the word out. Highlighted the i-STEM lending libraries and Micron's donation of kits as well. Dee: the kits are only as

good when they get used. Please remind people about the libraries and the kits. Kaitlin: Program expansion grant is open to expand programs for educators who have already received Professional Development. Science and Engineering Fairs will be happening end of February and early March. We are always looking for judges so please share or let us know if interested in judging. The winners go on to the International Fair. Planning on in person now but we have a plan for virtual if needed. We need 2 weeks to make the switch.

The eCYBERMISSION competition is provided by the Army, and we help promote. The deadline to enter has been extended so please help get the word out. Chief Science Officer is a way for students to be STEM leaders.

Goal 3: Align Education and Workforce We continue to roll out AWS for students and educators. We are working to double the number of participants in the Externship program. We already have 28 applications. Teachers can participate multiple times. **ACTION:** Will investigate how many are returning participants and report back. We need more companies to participate so let John know if your company would be willing to host an extern. Dee: asked the industry board members to get their companies to participate. Companies often learn as much as the extern. Kaitlin explained how externs are paid. Stipend costs are covered by a combination of WDC, STEM AC and host company.

Dee asked for Questions/comments: Jennifer regarding eCYBERMISSION. This is not an individual competition, they need a team, correct? Yes, need a teacher to form the team and be a mentor. Dee: Are we reaching out to teachers? Yes, via social media and directly.

Steve: Do we have a way to measure success? Kaitlin: we have SMART goals for all programs for example we set a goal to have 50 P3s this fiscal year and we will report on that. She also discussed the Center's performance report that is submitted to the legislature each year.

Jake: Do cities or counties ever get notification of eCYBERMISSION type programs. Kaitlin: only if they get our newsletter. Jake offered to share a list serv for us to use and get the word out.

Opening and upcoming applications shared: i-STEM Participant Application (Feb. 4th); Idaho Science and Engineering Fair Project Support; Program Expansion Grant; eCYBERMISSION; Teacher Externships

Dee: All of our opportunities go out on FB and Twitter and love to have you share and re-tweet.

Jennifer: Are we set on i-STEM strand providers? Yes. We will have 35 workshops. We are working to make sure are all full.

Computer Science initiative: Kaitlin attended National Governors Association conference. Chairman Governor Asa Hutchinson is making Computer Science a main priority at the National Governor level.

We hired a CS program manager and will be starting this Friday. Kaitlin provided her background and qualifications.

Kaitlin has talked with the Governor's office about a Computational Literacy working group to revisit and revive the CS Education plan.

American Rescue Plan hold back funds include \$8.8M for after school and summer programs. Asked for \$1.5M for the STEM AC to fund summer programs. Funds need to be spent by fall 2024. Dee: GREAT NEWS!

Legislation: No legislation for this year. We do have one line-item budget request of \$83,900 for STEM Designation and for Leadership training. We have 6 schools now designated.

Kaitlin has developed talking points that we will be using for this legislative session that she will share out to the board. **ACTION:** send talking points to the Board.

Dee asked for questions/comments. Jennifer: Cybersecurity Task Force, have they asked for help? Kaitlin has not heard from them but will follow up and get back to Jennifer. **ACTION**

Kaitlin provided some background. STEMAC and INL: we were asked to present to the Task Force to highlight what we are doing in K-12 cybersecurity education. Jen said we really need to push cybersecurity education down into the lower grades to make headway in the state. Kaitlin will see if she can share the survey the Task Force has created to understand all of the K-12 cybersecurity programming available in the state.

STEM School Designation- Basin Elementary: John who oversees this program provided an update. There are six schools that have Designation now. This past fall Basin Elementary in Idaho City had a site review. They passed the review and were certified by Cognia. Provided background on Basin Elementary. Explained the process for the site review. Basin was ahead of the game since they have been working on incorporating STEM in the district for 5-6 years. Explained the stakeholders' interviews process and the scoring of the observations of the review team. Scores were high and the review team was impressed. Need a motion for sending the Designation over to OSBE for approval. Motion: Joel Seconded: Wendi Approval: Unanimous. Dave abstained. We will move this on to OSBE. Kaitlin is on the OSBE Feb meeting schedule. We should have 4 more schools to certify this year.

Presentation from League of Cities: Miche Kirkman program manager for Idaho cities.

Miche: Thanked us for our support. Gave a thorough explanation of the objectives of the League of Idaho Cities. Canvassed the state to see how to address the needs of communities. Result was to develop an activity book. Provide opportunities for students to participate in public work programs. Interactive process to allow students to hear about public works and how they can improve their communities. Allows interaction between civic leaders and students. Provides kids with real world issues in their own communities. STEM is a huge part of the activity book. There is an entry form at the end of the book that is mailed in and enters them into the opportunity to receive funds for their schools. Kids get to see public works in action via field trips and see how STEM is used to solve problems in their community and make it a better place. 44 cities and 2000+ students. Dee thanked her for the work they are doing.

Comments: Jennifer commented that what she liked best of the whole concept is the partnership with the League of Cities and how it engages our civic leaders with students. Love the delivery method and reaching every part of the state. Kaitlin said this is a great example of Public Private Partnership and the impact it can have. Wendi loved the connection to the work force and the encouragement to get kids to stay in Idaho and improve their communities.

Federal Funding for Unfinished Learning: Joel provided his background as superintendent of a small rural community and how they addressed the pandemic in his district.

There is \$640M dollars in federal funding total. Provided a line-item accounting of those funds and how they could be spent to meet learning loss need and other priorities including social emotional needs.

Dee: how can school districts access the funds? Is this a staffing issue for schools? Do schools know about these funds? Joel: reaching out especially to rural communities through webinars. Going out

statewide. Making sure schools know how to get the funds. Jad: There is a struggle to keep teachers. Is some of this money available to address teacher shortages? Joel: Since this is one time funding it can only be used for bonuses or substitutions. Cannot add into budgets. Ed: Can this money be used as signing bonuses? Incentive for teaching? Yes.

Board member updates and discussion: Steven asked if there is a repository of STEAM AC information, past minutes and if so, how do we access it? Kaitlin: we will follow up and provide previous board minutes presentations etc and will meet with Ed and Steven individually to properly onboard them to the board. The website is a great resource for background on the work of the STEMAC.

Wendi update: \$50M in funding to invest in WDC across the state. Includes Idaho Launch. These are COVID funds and available for Idahoans who have been affected by COVID. Outline she provided showed the funds could be spent on simulators and mobile training to retail management and talent pipeline management. More investment in Next Steps.

How board can support: Provide introductions to STEM supporters, share success stories, share our events and follow us on Social Media platforms.

Upcoming events: JFAC presentation is Feb 7th. Kaitlin will let board know if there will be space to attend if they would like to. Idaho Science and Engineering Fairs: BSU 2/25; ISU 3/4; North Idaho 3/11. Idaho STEM Ecosystem Convening tentatively set for 4/28 – 29.

Dee offered thanks to Ed and Steve for coming on board.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn: 4:35pm