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**PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**  
**NORTHWEST STEM ADVISORY BOARD TO MEET**

Friday, October 20, 2017  
LaunchPAD Children's Museum  
623 Pearl Street, Sioux City, Iowa

**Members in Attendance:** John Bedward, Kathleen Bottaro, Benjamin Bouza, Beth Bunkers, Eric Forseth, Ginny Gunderson, Linda Gray, Kiana Johnson, Jordan Menning, Teresa Putnam and Brenda Welch.

**Guests:** Carrie Rankin, Assistant Director for Development for The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council and Janet Leifeld, NW Iowa STEM Support

**Members Absent:** Teresa Alesch, Derek Brower, and Mark Zabawa

**Agenda**

**Tour of LaunchPad Children's Museum** – Bob Fitch, Executive Director

The [LaunchPad Children's Museum](#) is an interactive educational experience designed to foster creativity and imagination in children ages 6 months to 10 years. Thirteen years in the making, it began as a brainchild of four mothers who realized their goal with its opening in 2016. As a private, non-profit organization, the museum has rapidly exceeded membership and attendance expectations. Plans are underway to expand programming, hand-on activities, as well as number of educators.

**Updates from Carrie Rankin**

- STEM Festival Recommendations – According to the STEM Festival Policy set forth by the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council, each STEM region can expend no more than 4% of its allocation on STEM Festivals. NW Iowa STEM will take the lead in coordinating at least one festival within the region and should play an active role in the planning of other events. NW STEM Advisory Board Members are encouraged to be actively involved in the planning and implementation of these events. Impact data should be gathered from participants.
- Festival Heat Map - Jeff Beneke, NE Iowa Regional STEM Manager, is involved in creating a heat map for festivals within the STEM regions. This map will be available to aid in future decision making.
- Data system – Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council is involved with UNI in developing an improved data system. Current system takes time and resources from each region data.
- Extended Impact Data – The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council would welcome input from the NW STEM Advisory Board on how was to measure extended impact, such as the use of Scale-Up Kits beyond the award year. Another suggestion is to follow the model used

by ISU Extension and Outreach to gather demographic information with kit requests and festival registration.

### **Festival Discussions & Assignments**

- September 5,6,7 - Precision Ag and Animal Science, NW IA Research Farm. Over 400 students attended to learn about new practices in agriculture.  
NW STEM Involvement: Fall 2018  
Assignments: Fall 2018
- October 7 – STEM and the Arts, Buena Vista University. 80 students attended. Future ideas – theme-based emphasis, follow-up programming with participating organizations (maybe virtual).  
NW STEM Involvement: Breakout sessions, STEM bags and funding for shirts  
Assignments: Mary Trent, Janet Leifeld
- November 4 – Healthy Living STEM Fest, Northwest Iowa Community College (Sheldon). Registration open for 120 participants. Pilot festival for health focus in Iowa, may be replicated throughout Iowa in the future.  
NW STEM involvement – Breakout sessions, NW STEM water bottles  
Assignments: Mary Trent, breakout session
- December 28 – Winter STEM Festival, DMACC (Carroll). NW STEM will plan and implement new event, coordinating with DMACC and ISU Extension and Outreach. Plan to focus on winter activities during school break.  
NW STEM Involvement – all areas. Specifics TBD.  
Assignments: Mary Trent, Coordinator. Beth Bunkers?
- February 17 - Dordt STEM Fest, Dordt College (Orange City). Engineering focus. Presenters provided by Dordt College and ISU Extension and Outreach. 200 students attended in 2017.  
NW STEM Involvement: Funding for presenter supplies (ex. fetal pigs).  
Assignments: TBD
- March TBD – Family Fest, Clay County Event Center (Spencer). Fun family day with large STEM presence from Iowa Lakes Community College. Provided activity and financial support for presenters in past.  
NW STEM Involvement: TBD.  
Assignments: TBD
- March 14 – Women in STEM: Making a Difference, ILLC (Estherville). NW STEM will take over coordinating this event. Open for girls in grades 7-8 to increase awareness of STEM career options. Two hundred students attended in 2017. Plans are to open registration to more school districts. Check with the WISE program for ideas. Possible presenters Coordinate with ISU Extension and Outreach.  
NW STEM Involvement: All aspects  
Assignments: Ginny Gunderson, Kiana Johnson, Teresa Putnam.
- March 16 - GRIT Multicultural Fair – Northwestern College (Sioux Center). Focus in on career options for students. Open to Hispanic students in grades 8-12. May replicate format for Denison event.  
NW STEM Involvement – TBD  
Assignments: TBD
- TBD - 2018 Sioux City KidWind Challenge– Western Iowa Technical College (Sioux City). 4-8th grade students from NWAEA region currently invited. Large Sioux City presence since

part of their curriculum. Students may go on to national event.

NW STEM Involvement – TBD

Assignments: Mary Trent, Kiana Johnson

- May 5 - Denison STEM Festival. Focus on Hispanic community. Searching community members/organizations for input on planning. May use format for GRIT Multicultural Fair. NW STEM Involvement – TBD  
Assignments: Mary Trent, Kathleen Bottaro

### **Scale-Up (IMSEP) Budget Update**

Revisions to the original 2017-18 Scale-Up awards are:

- CASE: Ag Power & Technology – Second educator awarded professional development funds from MMCRU CSD.
- Engineering is Elementary – Sioux City, Clark Elementary declined award. Funding re-allocated to Demoney Elementary (ELC) and ISU extension and Outreach, Ida County.
- FIRST Robotics Competition – Sibley-Ocheyedan CSD declined the award.
- Making STEM Connections – Lawton-Bronson CSD declined the award. Funding re-allocated to HMS CSD. Additional carts were awarded to the following: Alta-Aurelia CSD and Spalding Elementary (Sioux City Schools) due to implementation logistics.

### **STEM BEST Update**

Spirit Lake Middle School was awarded the [2017 STEM BEST Award](#). They plan to expand their maker space area and open it up for community participation.

### **STEM Teacher Award Update**

Nominations are now closed for the [I.O.W.A. STEM Teacher Award](#). Eight educators from the NW STEM region were nominated and are now encouraged to apply. NW STEM advisory board members interested in evaluating applications are asked to get in touch with Carrie Rankin.

### **STEM Seal of Approval**

The Precision Ag and Animal Science event has received the Governor's STEM Advisory Council's [Seal of Approval](#).

### **Upcoming Dates and Events**

- Saturday, November 4, 2017, Healthy Living Festival, Sheldon
- Monday, November 13, 2017 – NW STEM Board Meeting, Estherville.
- Friday, November 17, 2017 - Regional STEM Advisory Board Mega-Meeting, Huxley.

### **State-wide STEM Happenings**

- The Iowa Governor's STEM Council is in the process of filling the position of Communications Director.
- Interviews are now underway for Central Regional STEM Manager position housed in Ames.

**Next Meeting** – Monday, November 13, 2017. SERT Building, Iowa Lakes Community College, Estherville.