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## NORTHWEST STEM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 24, 2017

Virtual Meeting

**Members in Attendance:** Eric Forseth, Linda Gray, Kiana Johnson, Jordan Menning and Brenda Welch

**Guests:** Janet Leifeld

**Members Absent:** Teresa Alesch, John Bedward, Kathleen Botaro, Benjamin Bouza, Derek Brower, Beth Bunkers, Ginny Gunderson, Nancy McDowell, Teresa Putnam and Mark Zabawa.

### 1. Welcome to Newly Appointed NW STEM Regional Board Members

The State of Iowa has appointed 6 individuals to the NW STEM Advisory Board which now fills all 15 positions. Those recently named include:

- Jordan Menning, Science Consultant for NW AEA
- Kiana Johnson, Executive Director of O'Brien County Economic Development Corporation
- Brenda Welch, Youth Program Specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach in Woodbury County
- Benjamin Bouza, Athletic Director/MSHS Librarian at West Sioux School District
- Ginny Gunderson, Supplier Relations Manager at Rembrandt Foods in Spirit Lake
- Teresa Putnam, Science/TAG teacher at Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn School District

Each month prior to the scheduled meeting, board members will receive a copy of the Public Meeting Notice as well as a more detailed meeting agenda. Included in these documents will be virtual and phone links for those unable to attend in person. The meeting will also be recorded. The Zoom contact information may change based on our meeting location. Meetings will be held monthly at this point, to help new board members gain familiarity with NW STEM and its mission.

All board members are encouraged to review the information contained in the [Orientation Packets](#).

### 2. Board Member Participation Commitment

All advisory board members will be asked to play an active role with NW STEM throughout the year. Members are asked to complete the following online form which asked members for their interests, strengths and in what capacity they wish to serve. Please complete the form by August 10, 2017. Listed below are items addressed on the survey:

- STEM Events – Assist with NW Regional STEM events
- STEM Festivals – Plan to be actively involved in 4 festivals this year. Various roles available.

- STEM Best - 16 STEM BEST applications will be funded this year. Application reviewers needed this fall.
- STEM Teacher Awards – Review applications.
- Scale-Up Review – All board members will be involved in review process. \$500,000 annual budget for NW STEM Region.
- Beyond the Scope – Share your skill set, connections and strength to develop STEM partnerships
- Your Voice – Share your input and ideas for improvement for NW STEM leadership and STEM program development.

To access the NW STEM Advisory Board Participation Form, click on the link below:

[Form must be completed by August 10, 2017](#)

### 3. STEM Festivals for 2017-18

NW STEM plans to host four STEM Festivals during the 2017-18 year, with the possibility of adding additional events. Based on [Past Festival Locations](#), NW STEM wants to ensure that access to STEM festivals is consistent throughout the NW STEM Region. Two festivals are currently in the works:

- Women in STEM, Iowa Lakes Community College (March 2018). NW STEM took over sponsorship of this event for 2018. Over 170 middle school girls attending in 2017, learning about STEM careers opportunities.
- Glidden-Ralston STEM Day (Fall 2017) – May evolve into either a STEM Event or Festival

A Festival Planning Agreement has been developed which provides an explanation of components of Festivals. Advisory board members are encouraged to provide suggestions for possible festival sites and collaborations. Those mentioned include the Denison area, Dordt STEM event, Sheldon STEM event, and Sioux City schools.

### 4. Upcoming Dates and Events

- STEM Day at Iowa State Fair: Des Moines, August 20 (Sunday)
- STEM BEST applications due: September 15, 2017 (5pm CT)

### 5. What's Mary been up to?

The Regional Manager Report will be shared with advisory board on a regular basis, initially every three months. [Link to Manager's Report](#)

**Next Meeting - Monday, August 14, 2017.** Dordt College, Sioux Center. Lunch through Dordt College prior to meeting at 11am. Tour of Trans Ova Genetics.