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## NORTHWEST STEM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 14, 2017  
Terrace Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Campus Center  
Dordt College, 300 South 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sioux Center, IA

**Members in Attendance:** Teresa Alesch, John Bedward, Benjamin Bouza, Derek Brower, Beth Bunkers, Ginny Gunderson, Eric Forseth, Linda Gray, Kiana Johnson, Jordan Menning, Teresa Putnam and Mark Zabawa.

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

**Members Absent:** Kathleen Botaro and Brenda Welch

### 1. Agenda

#### 1. Roll Call

#### 2. Orientation Information for New Board Members

- STEM Regional Managers are working on the development of an orientation packet for advisory board members. Once in place, NW STEM will hold a virtual orientation meeting open to any board member in order to review the packet information. Watch for upcoming notification.
- Advisory board members have access to the NW Advisory Council folder that contains information useful to members. The link to this document was shared electronically with members.

#### 3. Attendance Requirements for Board Members

- Advisory Board Members may not miss three consecutive meetings or more than half of those scheduled in a year.
- NW STEM Advisory Board will meet monthly this year due to the number of new members. Plans are to reduce the number of meetings so people become more familiar with programs and projects.

#### 4. Board Member Participation Commitment Overview

Information collected from the Board Member Participation Survey is contained in the NW STEM Advisory Board Participation Commitment Form (Responses). The link to this form has been shared with members and will be used by working groups for upcoming projects.

Carrie Rankin, representing the Iowa Governor's STEM Council, thanked advisory board members for their volunteer involvement with STEM. She encouraged members to be active in the NW STEM region as well as STEM opportunities state-wide.

#### **5. STEM Festivals for 2017-18 - Committee Formations**

The NW STEM Region currently plans to hold four STEM festivals this year, two in the fall and two in the spring. Each festival will recruit board members to serve on the planning committee. The spreadsheet **Potential Festivals in the NW Region** will be used to gather information about upcoming STEM festivals/events in the region this year. Members are asked to enter information. Several upcoming festivals/events have already been mentioned:

- Denison – Potential festival location
- Rock Valley – Potential festival location
- NCC Event – STEM Event. November, 2017.
- Precision Ag – High school ag event. September, 2017.
- STEM in the Arts Festival – Storm Lake. October, 2017.
- Fall STEM Fest – Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon. For students in grades 4 – 8<sup>th</sup>. Will be adding a healthy living component as they pilot STEM heart monitors. November, 2017.
- Dordt STEM Fest – Dordt College, Sioux Center. February, 2018
- Women in STEM, Iowa Lakes Community College, Estherville. March, 2018.
- GRIT – Northwestern College, Orange City. Empowering multicultural students in 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade to “Get Real Together” through leadership activities, college exploration and cultural awareness. March, 2018.
- Sioux City KidWind Competition – Sioux City opportunities

#### **6. Upcoming Dates and Events**

- STEM Day at the Iowa State Fair; Des Moines, August 20, 2017. Main Concourse.
- Back to School Bash – Iowa Lakes Community College, Estherville Campus. NW STEM with makerspace activities. August 30, 2017.
- STEM BEST proposals due; September 15, 2017. 5pm (CT)
  - Currently 4 - 6 applications have been received from schools in the NW Region. Funding is available for at least 16 proposals across the state this year. The purpose is to strengthen the connections between community-business partners and education. If school districts have any questions, they may reach out to individuals at [STEM BEST](#).
- Mary Trent will join Governor Reynolds on upcoming school tour.
- Clay County Fair – Science Saturday. Iowa Lakes Community College faculty and staff spread out throughout the fairgrounds promoting science activities for kids. NW STEM will provide Bubble Bonanza. September 16, 2017.
- Clay County Fair - Iowa Lakes Corridor, ILCC and IWD will have a heavy equipment simulator on hand, to whether you have skills to operate heavy equipment

#### **7. Tour of Science Building**

Advisory Board Members and guest were given a glimpse of the renovation project in the Dordt Science Building. Due to increasing numbers of students enrolling as science majors, the Science Building is involved in an expansion project to meet projected needs in the future, with updated laboratories. The renovated facility will allow more space for hands-on learning and collaboration.

#### **8. Tour of Trans Ova Genetics, Sioux Center.**

Trans Ova Genetics in Sioux Center is one of a few sites across the country that is working to

improve animal genetics to meet the rising demand for animal protein production. In order to meet this need in a sustainable manner, new technologies are being designed and implemented. Advisory board members and guests toured the facilities and learned of the new technologies as they relate to beef genetics - IFV (In Vitro Fertilization), embryo transfer and cloning.

**Next Meeting** – Monday, September 11. Pella Window Corporation, Carroll. 10:00-12:00 Lunch following the meeting at 12pm. Tour of Pella Window Corporation.