



NORTHWEST STEM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 11, 2017

Pella Window Cooperation

Carroll, Iowa

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

Guests: Jeff Weld, Executive Director of The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council and Janet Leifeld, NW Iowa STEM Support

Members Absent: Teresa Alesch, Kathleen Bottaro, and Mark Zabawa

Tour of Pella Corporation

NW STEM advisory board members and guests toured Pella Corporation in Carroll, host site of the September meeting. The Carroll facility produces vinyl and wood windows and doors, as well as replacement parts. Many of the positions require an educational level of high school graduate, with specific training occurring in-house. Other positions require an engineering background. The plant is implementing robotic components when upgrading equipment and processes.

Update from Jeff Weld

Jeff Weld, Executive Director of the Iowa Governor's STEM advisory Council provided a greeting to new advisory board members, addressed the importance of their actions in promoting STEM and provided updates on the following statewide initiatives.

- STEM BEST - Applications are open until September 15.
<https://www.iowastem.gov/stembest/proposal>
- IOWA STEM Teacher Award nominations – Nominations are due October 6.
<https://www.iowastem.gov/teacheraward>
- Scale-Up proposals from providers due October 9.

STEM Festivals for 2017-18

The main emphasis of this month's meeting was a discussion on STEM festivals. Each STEM region is required to conduct at least one festival each year, with no more than \$20,000 of the annual STEM Scale-Up budget to be reserved for this purpose. In the past, the NW STEM region has provided support (financial, planning and/or participatory) for up to eight events per year.

Ideas put forth regarding festival planning and participation included:

- Develop Media kit – to be used for event planning

- Festival proposal – develop an application process (RFP)
- Number of years to support event – gradual reduction in funding, continued support for good programming
- What type of support is requested – what are the specific needs of each festival
- What are the priorities in the NW Region? Is there a specific focus that will take priority?
- NW STEM – physical presence at each event, whether regional manager or advisory board member. Actively involved in planning event.
- ISU Extension and Outreach partners with multiple organizations throughout the region to provide STEM festivals and events, the majority held at regional 2-4 year post-secondary institutions.
- Divide funding equally between festivals based on college-host sites.
- Tiered funding levels, with level 1 to be major festival hosted by NW STEM.

Mary Trent will develop a RFP to be distributed for festivals already identified this fiscal year and for future requests. NW STEM has already identified the Denison and Women in STEM festivals as priorities (tier 1).

Upcoming festivals this fall include:

October 7 - STEM and the Arts, Storm Lake. Role of NW STEM – NW STEM logo will be used on t-shirts and promotional materials. Flags, banners at entrances. Mary will attend. Approximately 100 students will attend. Financial support – shirts for kids

November 4 - Healthy Living STEM Festival, Sheldon. Health festival will be a pilot for the state of Iowa. NW STEM Support - Mary invited to attend planning meeting at end of month. NW STEM Logo will be used in promotional materials. Mary will attend event. Approximately 150 to 200 kids. Financial support – water bottles.

New Board Member Orientation Virtual Meeting

September 19 – All board members are welcome to attend. Contact Mary if you are interested. The training will be recorded and should last 1 hour or less.

Upcoming Dates and Events

- September 15 - STEM BEST proposals due, 5pm (CT)
- September 16 - Science Day, Clay County Fair in Spencer
- September 19 – New Board Member Orientation Virtual Meeting
- October 2 – Camp Dodge, Council meeting. Governor press conference at 9am.
- October 6 - I.O.W.A. STEM Teacher award nomination deadline
- October 7 - STEM in the Arts Festival, Storm Lake
- October 8 - ISTS Elements of STEM Conference, Ankeny
- October 15–17 – ITEC Connection Conference, Des Moines.
- October 16 – Iowa Talented and Gifted Association Conference, Des Moines
- October 18-19 – Iowa Library Association Conference, Coralville
- November 4 – Healthy Living STEM Festival, Sheldon
- November 6 -7 – Iowa School Counselors Association Conference, Altoona
- November 15-16 – Iowa Association of School Boards Conference, Des Moines.

Next Meeting – October 20 - LaunchPAD Children’s Museum, Sioux City. 10am - 12pm with lunch to follow