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## NORTHWEST STEM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Prairie Heritage Center, O'Brien County Conservation Board  
Peterson, IA

**Members in Attendance:** Teresa Alesch, John Bedward, Derek Brower, Beth Bunkers, Dr. Eric Forseth, Linda Gray, Nancy McDowell, Mary Trent, and Mark Zabawa.

**Guests:** Angel Mendez, Communications and Marketing Manager of Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council; Charlene Elyea, O'Brien County Naturalist; Janet Leifeld.

**Members Absent:** Kathy Bottaro, Wade Weber, and Sherry McGill

### 1. Call for Evaluators for Scale-Up Programs

The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council is seeking STEM stakeholders to help select the menu of preK-12 STEM programs that will be offered to educators as 2017-2018 Scale-Up Program Awards. Evaluators are asked to commit to 14-23 hours, from October 2016 through January 2017. Advisory board members wishing to volunteer as evaluators should contact Molly Faber.

Evaluation Timeline:

- October 3 – 7, 2016: Evaluator training with WestEd (1 hour)
- October 12, 2016: Review process begins
- October 24 – 28, 2016: Interrater Reliability Sessions (90-minute webinar, 3 proposals to review as prep)
- October 12, 2016 - January 6, 2017: Review period
- January 2-6, 2017: Review calibration (2-hour webinar)
- January 24, 2017: Selected Scale-Up programs notified

### 2. NW STEM Website Update

Molly Faber and Janet Leifeld reported on recent updates completed on the NW STEM website. More comprehensive information has been included under each heading, as well as multiple links to the state website. New features include:

- Northwest STEM Region Calendar – designed to inform viewers at a glance of upcoming STEM events throughout the region. Viewers are able to electronically submit STEM events for inclusion on the calendar.

- STEM Resources for Checkout - Online checkout process for resources housed at the NW STEM Office. A list of available resources, as well as an online checkout form, allow individuals to borrow STEM resources.

### 3. Festivals for 2016-2017 (tabled until October meeting)

### 4. North West STEM Region Engagement Map

The NW Region engagement map was reviewed and used as a talking point to determine regional STEM goals for FY2017. The engagement map noted the location of STEM award recipients between FY2013 – 17.

### 5. STEM Goals for FY2017

A discussion was held to determine goals for FY 2017, with the following ideas put forth:

- More professional development opportunities for educators, in particular Scale-Up awareness training such as the Scale-Up awareness training held last year at Keumper Catholic Schools in Carroll. O'Brien County schools will be invited to a Scale-Up grant writing evening during the application process for FY2018.
- Raise STEM awareness goal in NW Region. Recent analysis concluded that the NW STEM Region registers the highest STEM awareness level in the state at 56%. The Advisory Board set a goal of reaching 60% awareness during FY 2017. The following ideas were discussed as ways to raise awareness:
  - ✓ Promote awareness and use of Northwest STEM Regional Calendar
  - ✓ Display popup STEM banners in communities throughout the region. Set up a rotating schedule and log length of display time at each location. Possible sites include libraries, post offices, grocery stores, gas stations, etc.
  - ✓ Expand use of social media.
- Increase STEM opportunities for students in diverse populations.
- Increase number of STEM Festival Events, including summer events.
- Expand STEM focus on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Connect Scale-Up Programs to new education standards (Next Generation Science Standards).

### 6. Tour of Prairie Heritage Center with Charlene Elyea, O'Brien County Naturalist

Charlene Elyea, O'Brien County Naturalist, led members on a tour of the Prairie Heritage Center. The nature center features displays that reflect the history of the surrounding Little Sioux River and Waterman Creek valleys, including fantastic specimens of fossilized animal remains, man-made artifacts representative of the Mill Creek Culture, as well as photos and stories on the settlement of the area. For more information on the O'Brien County Conservation Board and events scheduled at the Prairie Heritage Center, check out their website and sign up to receive their newsletter. <http://prairieheritagecenter.org/>

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 25; 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Spencer, Prairie Lakes AEA.

To join by computer, please click the following: <https://uni.zoom.us/j/2973548501>. To join by phone, dial +1 (415) 762-9988 and enter Meeting ID: 297 354 8501.