



NORTHWEST STEM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 30, 2017
Prairie Lakes AEA, Spencer Office
23 E 7th St, Suite B; Spencer, IA 51301

Members in Attendance: Teresa Alesch, John Bedward, Kathleen Bottaro, Derek Brower, Beth Bunkers, Linda Gray, Sherry McGill, Mary Trent, Wade Weber and Mark Zabawa.

Guests: Jeff Weld - Executive Director of Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council, Janet Leifeld.

Members Absent: Dr. Eric Forseth, Nancy McDowell

1. Review of 2017-18 STEM Scale-Up Programs

Jeff Weld, Executive Director of Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council, provided an update on the 2017-18 STEM Scale-up Program Webinar held on Friday, January 27. Representatives from the nine selected programs participated, providing five minute infomercials during the 75-minute program. The edited, time-stamped webinar is now available for viewing at <http://www.iowastem.gov/scale-up/FAQ>. A special thank you to NW STEM Advisory Board members Linda Gray and John Bedward who participated in the program selection process.

2. Mailing and Packets to Promote Scale-Up Programs

NW STEM has been actively promoting the 2017-18 STEM Scale-Up Program through emails and social media since its roll-out on Tuesday, January 24. NW STEM will continue to reach out to the region to ensure that educators are aware of the application period, in particular reaching out to educators with limited STEM Scale-Up experience. More information on the 2017-18 STEM Scale-Up Programs can be found at <http://www.iowastem.gov/2017-18-Scale-Up>

3. Update on NW STEM Manager Search

The search committee has reached out to five applicants who are scheduled to be interviewed on Thursday, February 2. Staff from the Governor's STEM Advisory Council, NW STEM Advisory Board Members, and Iowa Lakes Community College staff have provided support for the NW STEM Office during this transition period. We are anxiously awaiting the hiring of the NW STEM Manager.

4. Externships

Jeff Weld provided the NW STEM Advisory Board with an update on the STEM Teacher Externship program. Applications are currently being accepted for teachers wishing to participate in the program during the summer of 2017. There are currently more educators applying to become externs than workplace hosts. The NW STEM Advisory Board was asked to encourage local businesses to become a workplace host site. Check out this link for more information on the [Teacher Externship Program](#) in the NW STEM Region.

5. Regional STEM Boards Mega-meeting

The Regional STEM Boards Mega-meeting will be held on Monday, April 10. Regional STEM Advisory Board members are invited to attend this state-wide event. The location has yet to be determined, but will be located in central Iowa. Advisory board members were asked to complete a survey to identify topics for the agenda.

Upcoming STEM Events in NW Region

- January 30 – **STEM Scale-Up Program 2017-18** in Spencer

This workshop will provide information on the 2017-18 STEM Scale-Up Programs and tips on completing the application. Previous award winners were invited to share “best practices”. Several past and current STEM Scale-Up resources will be available to provide hands-on examination. The following NW STEM Advisory Board members will be on hand: Teresa Alesch, John Bedward, Beth Bunkers, Mary Trent and Wade Weber. The event is hosted by Iowa State Extension and Outreach: NW STEM is a sponsor.

- February 16 – **STEM Day at the Capital**

NW STEM Advisory Board Members are encouraged to attend STEM Day at the Capital on Thursday, February 16. The following have indicated they will be on hand to promote STEM: Kathleen Bottaro, Beth Bunkers and Mary Trent.

During the event, the six I.O.W.A STEM Teacher of the Year award recipients will be honored. This year’s NW STEM Region recipient is Keith Juelfs who teaches fifth grade at Morningside Elementary STEM School in Sioux City. Keith was instrumental in implementing the ExSTEMtion Program and offers various STEM opportunities to students.

Further information will be sent out from the Iowa Governor’s STEM Advisory Council as the date approaches.

A suggestion was made to track legislative contact by the NW STEM team. Information of activities could be shared during board meetings in addition to developing a shared document.

- February 18 – **Spring 2017 STEM Fest** at Dordt College.

Spring 2017 STEM Fest will be held from 9am – 3:30pm on Saturday, February 18 at the Dordt College Science and Technology Center in Sioux Center. The event, hosted by Dordt College and Iowa State Extension and Outreach is open all students in grades 4 – 8. NW STEM is a sponsor of this event. For more information and a registration link, [click here](#).

- February 23 – **STEM Night at Kuemper** in Carroll
[STEM Night at Kuemper](#) is an informational event for educators, formal and non-formal, to learn more about the 2017-18 STEM Scale-Up Program menu. Representatives from all nine selected programs will provide information as well as answer questions. Past award recipients will be present to explain the application process. The event will be held from 5 – 7:30pm, with dinner provided.
- March 15 – Women in STEM (Festival) – ILCC, Estherville
- March 20 – Iowa STEM Council Web Meeting
- March 31 – Regional STEM Boards Mega-meeting
- April 3 – 2017-18 Scale-Up Awards Announced
- April 27 – Aviation Exploration (Festival) – ILCC, Estherville

Next Meeting

Note Date Change - Zoom meeting on Friday, February 24, 2017; 10 – 11:30 a.m.