



NORTHWEST STEM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Campus Center Board Room, 3rd Floor Campus Center

Dordt College, 498 4th Ave NE

Sioux Center, IA

Members in Attendance: Teresa Alesch, John Bedward, Derek Brower, Beth Bunkers, Dr. Eric Forseth, Linda Gray, Nancy McDowell, 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: Kathleen Bottaro

1. Code Iowa

Award – Spirit Lake Elementary School received the Code Iowa Award on Tuesday, December 6 during their Jam the Hall coding event. Leka DeGroot, 1st grade teacher submitted the application and will use the \$3500 to develop a coding resource library for Spirit Lakes schools. 12 teams submitted applications in the Northwest STEM Region. All applicants received a certificate and are now eligible to participate in professional development trainings this spring. Schools participating in coding events during Computer Education Week are encouraged to post pictures on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram using #CodeIowa or IowaSTEM.

Trainings for Spring – Angel Mendez, Communications Manager is involved in setting up professional development sessions for applicants this spring. Reach out to Angel Mendez if there are any suggestions or questions. If not a Code Iowa applicant, educators are encouraged to contact Code.org about other professional development options in Iowa. Face-to-face training for formal educators will be provided in at least one location per region, with site selection based on density of Code Iowa schools.

STEM BEST

Spencer High School is one of 10 schools in the state of Iowa to receive the STEM BEST award this fall. Board members are encouraged to reach out to Spencer to answer questions, offer support as they move forward in the development of their model. STEM BEST recipients participate in quarterly meetings at the state level for guidance through the development.

STEM Equity

The STEM Equity Committee recently selected 9 educators from throughout the state to be involved in professional development focusing on STEM equity. With funding provided by Pioneer DuPont, the STEM Council will partner with NAPE (National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity) to train a cohort of educators to develop a STEM equity professional learning community (virtual). The identified teacher-leaders will attend online trainings (4-5) starting this spring, with a follow-up meeting with NAPE at the conclusion. Focus of the training will be on equity issues, including micro-messaging. Sessions will be recorded so available for viewing. NAPE will use this training as a pilot. Selected for this cohort from the NW Region is Melissa Birkey, an educator with West Elementary School in Emmetsburg.

2. Scale-Up to Come

Board members are being asked to spread the word about the upcoming Scale-Up application timeline. Scale-Up programs for 2017-18 will be announced on January 24. Linda and John are working with Change the Equation to assist in the Scale-Up provider selection process. All board members will be involved in the evaluation of Scale-Up educator applications. Board members will meet on March 20 at Northwestern College review and finalized selection of Scale-Up program recipients.

The NW STEM Region plans to host 2 informative events for formal and non-formal educators to learn about each Scale-Up program prior to applying. Representatives from each Scale-Up provider will be invited to present, either in person or virtually. Mary Trent hosted STEM Night at Kuemper last spring, with over 90 teachers attending from the NW and SW STEM Regions. Mary plans to repeat this event in 2017 with invitations to include non-formal educators as well. Wade Weber, Teresa Alesch and John Bedward plan to host a second STEM Night in Spencer, with invitations being sent to educators from the North Central STEM Region as well as the NW Region. For those unable to attend, recording of the event is a possibility.

A suggestion was made for Scale-Up providers to submit short videos for the STEM website, to provide educators with a better understanding of each Scale-Up.

3. Regional STEM Boards Mega-Meeting

Tentatively scheduled for Friday, March 31, STEM advisory board members from each STEM region are invited to attend the Mega-board meeting (central Iowa site TBD). NW STEM Board members provided feedback on agenda items.

4. Announcements

- February 16, 2017 - STEM Day at the Capital
- June 21, 2017 - STEM/Work-based Learning Event, HyVee Center, Des Moines
- April 6, 2016 - Mid-States Conference on Community and Economic Development, South Sioux City. Rocket Manufacturing will be presenting.
- STEM Legislation – Pending legislation before the state legislature to increase funding to \$5.7 million to dramatically expand the STEM BEST models.
- Need in Iowa to identify and grow high quality professional development to connect education with local industry/world of business.

- Iowa STEM Return on Investment Handout. Contact Molly for additional copies or electronic version.
 - Sioux City received funding to develop a Maker Space which will be available for group use.
 - Recognition of STEM Festival at Northwest Iowa Community College and FIRST LEGO League Regional Qualifier event at Iowa Lakes Community College.
5. Final Announcement & Farewell – Molly Faber has resigned from her position as NW Region Manager with her final day on Thursday, December 14. With Molly at the helm, educators in the NW Region registered the highest involvement in the state in Scale-Up programs. Molly was also recognized for her work on STEM Equity. The team at Iowa STEM, Iowa Lakes Community College, the NW STEM Advisory Board, and Molly will ensure that the NW STEM Hub remains available to NW educators and succession of the STEM Regional Manager position will be positive and swift.

Next Meeting

Monday, January 30, 2017; 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Ida County ISU Extension and Outreach Office, Ida Grove.