

STEM BOARD MEETING NOTES FROM 1/17/2019. Meeting began at 9:00am via Zoom

Attendees: Dan D'Alessandro, Pat Barnes, Dwight Dohlman, Ellen Kabat-Lensch, Craig Martinson, Dana Millard, Emily Strattan, Beth Ullmark, Linda Zachar

Absent board members:

Guest: Kristine Bullock, Sujit Singh

November 2018 minutes from board meeting at Axalta Coating Systems reviewed as well as January 1, 2019 financial report which included discussion on invoices received for the scale-ups, festival expenditures that will occur in the spring and the hiring of two student assistants.

Zachar provided an update on the most recent board chair call which included a discussion on the return of Jeff Weld to the STEM Council, the release of the Federal STEM report and the upcoming STEM Day at the Capitol event. Next week, Zachar will be convening a math focus group to improve the state of math in Iowa.

On January 14, 2019, the Governor announced the next round of available scale-up programs which includes CASE: Food Science and Safety, Computer Science Discoveries, Computer Science Fundamentals, Computer Science Principles, Engineer Your World, Light and Shadow, Making STEM Connections, Pint Size Science, STEM in Action and STEM Innovator. The application window is January 21 – March 4, 2019. Bullock provided additional details about new programs including whether the program is for in-school or out-of-school and what the funding covers. Board members discussed the process for how the list was created, how the Council decides to scale programs for multiple years and the rate educators sustain the programs beyond the award period. Bullock discussed promotion strategies including mass mailings, targeted promotion to specific school buildings in the region, and in-person meetings with schools and organizations.

The Computer Science is Elementary project application will open January 22 – March 29, 2019 and will award six \$50,000 grants to high need elementary schools implementing computer science school wide. To qualify, schools must be at least 40% free and reduced lunch. Loess Hills Elementary in Sioux City will serve as the model school and Wren Hoffman from the Department of Education will serve in a support role.

D'Alessandro discussed the recent formation of a taskforce in the Quad Cities charged with promoting skill trades and vocational education. The Quad City Engineering and Science Council will be leading the group and from their discussions, have found that there are a lot of misconceptions about vocational classes, schools have emphasized core academics due to No Child Left Behind and students don't see vocational courses as a good alternative. They have talked to K-12 schools, community colleges, four-year universities, trade unions, and businesses. As next steps, the QCESC will be forming plans for activities trade groups can do with local kids, they will form partnerships with trade and business organizations, and they will seek sponsorship for these activities.

On January 8, 2019, the STEM Council awarded four innovation fund grants including two awardees from the Southeast region – Iowa Tech Chicks and University of Iowa Department of Computer Science. The awardees will be implementing their programs through December 2019.

Each year, Kemin Industries sponsors the I.O.W.A. STEM Teacher Award which provides one \$3,000 award to each of the six STEM regions. In the Southeast Region, the 2019 award winner is Jacob Hunter who is an agricultural science teacher from North Scott High School in Eldridge.

The mid-year report for the Southeast Region is due January 31, 2019 and Bullock provided an overview of the various sections of the report including the number of teachers and students participating in the scale-up program, the number of people reached through various communications channels, impact of the community STEM festivals, and partnerships with community members.

Board members shared upcoming STEM events including the following:

- FIRST Lego League State Championship
- QCESC Engineering Banquet (nominations being accepted for awards)
- ICR Career Fair March 31 at the Kirkwood Hotel in Cedar Rapids

Meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.