

Southeast Region STEM Advisory Board  
Minutes 10/18/18

Board meeting began with a tour of the BioMedical Center research labs with Dr. Weiner. The tour included a walk thru of the labs doing expensive testing and modeling of cells for cancer research. The center at the University of Iowa is the only top tier research model in the state. Medical discoveries have spurred business start ups and some have been bought out by pharma companies. The research center is critical to industry, workforce and education.

Board meeting officially called to order at 11:35am.

In attendance: Joe Crozier, Dana Millard, Linda Zachar, Pat Barns, Adrianna Johnson, Craig Martinson, Dwigth Dohlman, Daniel Dalessandro, Emily Stratton (Thank you for hosting!), and Beth Ullmark. Ellen Kabat Lensch in attendance by phone.

Unable to attend: Dr. Dan Peterson, Christine Cournoyer, Kate Moreland.

Topics of discussion included:

Updates on STEM BEST and Future Ready Iowa Summits. Consensus that STEM BEST proposal reviews are easier than last year. Webinar was extremely helpful. More guidance could be offered on executive summaries. Appears some school districts have grant writers while others are DIY projects. If proposals are “modeling” another program then that model should be referenced in summary, especially if it is currently successful. Possible set up resource for pre-grant review for areas that it may benefit. Possibly set up matrix to fully measure the partnership between schools and local business. This may improve business involvement and ability to gage investment from support letters. Discussion on support letters, level of business and school partnership, and the use of the business model as a different way to teach. Future Ready hopes to build better connections for youth. One challenge is getting access for younger students to get full business experience. Dana mentioned the use of her area as an example of business/education connection.

The Executive Council meets on 10/22. There are 20 STEM BEST applications. SouthEast Region has 5 applicants. Tentatively going to award 15 of the proposals, dependent upon scoring and funding.

Iowa STEM Evaluation Report. FY2018 results include higher interest in STEM and STEM Careers for scale up students and increased community awareness. Discussion regarding measurements both short and long term and ways to get accurate accounting of programming.

Computer Science is Elementary Project announced and one elementary school in each of the 6 Hub regions will receive a \$50,000 grant to develop a computer science elementary model. It is important that the proposals are scalable across the state. The grants would like to target schools in greatest need addressing FRL, populations with low STEM contact and balance between urban and rural.

State Communications Update-committee had call with Lindy Ibeling. Keep promoting hashtag. It is work in progress.

Share out from members concluded the formal meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.