

Minutes  
Southeast Region STEM Advisory Board  
9/20/2018

Genesis Systems Group  
8900 N Harrison St.  
Davenport, IA

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**Board members attending:** Chris Cournoyer, Joe Crozier, Dan D’Alessandro, Dwight Dohlman, Ellen Kabat-Lensch, Craig Martinson, Dana Millard, Emily Strattan, Beth Ullmark, Linda Zachar

**Unable to attend:** Pat Barnes, Adriana Johnson, Kate Moreland, Dan Peterson

**Guests:** Kristine Bullock, Jenna Keppy, Julie Stevens, Northeast High School students

Discussion:

Engineering and Human Resources representatives from Genesis Systems Group discussed the work being done at the company which started in Rock Island, IL and now operates in 17 countries. The company started with welding for the transportation industry and has expanded to develop robotic welding cells for various industries. 90% of the employees at the company have at least a 2-year degree and they hire a lot of process engineers, software engineers, project managers, engineering technicians, network engineers, welders and fabricators. Human resources representatives emphasized that all employees get 40 hours of continuing education per year and new hires are expected to be strong communicators.

Board members reviewed nominations for board chair. Nominees were Pat Barnes, Chris Cournoyer, and Linda Zachar. Both Barnes and Cournoyer supported Zachar and withdrew their names. The board unanimously approved Zachar as board chair.

Kristine Bullock discussed the Iowa STEM Innovation Fund which is a statewide pool of private resources meant to grow Iowa programs into scale-up programs. The application deadline is October 8, 2018 and board members were encouraged to refer interested applicants to the state website. Bullock reminded board members that interested applicants should know that they need to have the administrative capacity to support statewide implementation which could be challenging for school buildings. The fund is not meant to add new programs to a school. Dana Millard mentioned that Central Lee is interested in applying and Craig Martinson mentioned that University of Iowa Robotics may be interested.

Board members received a list of Future Ready Iowa Summits across the region and reviewed a sample agenda from Muscatine. Board members are encouraged to attend one of the summits. Ellen Kabat-Lensch and Millard discussed the summits and Davenport and Burlington, respectively.

Board members generated ideas of interest for the board to discuss. The first topic was how to engage Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts including how to best get information to these groups, how to promote check out materials and how they could cross promote the Iowa STEM Council on their social media pages. Members suggested get representatives from informal groups like Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and ISU Extension & Outreach to speak to the group. Other topics of interest included how to make math more exciting so students can see the connections between course work and careers specifically when it comes to statistics and data analysis. Final, board members discussed how to make STEM opportunities more accessible to rural communities through transportation. Examples including bussing provided to the Kirkwood Community College regional centers, Farm Chats with Farm Bureau and social media promotion of events.

The meeting concluded with a share out of events including the following:

- FLL and FLL Jr Kickoff at the Putnam Museum in Davenport September 22
- Girls Go STEM at the University of Iowa December 1
- Kids Go STEM at the University of Iowa February 23
- Eastern Iowa Community College Advanced Manufacturing Career Fair October 9 and Health Expo February 22

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.