



Governor's STEM Advisory Council
Executive Committee 20
May 15, 2014
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds, co-chair
Mary Vermeer Andringa, co-chair (via phone to 11:00am)
Lori Adams (proxy for Theresa Wahlert)
Barry Butler (proxy for Sally Mason, via phone)
Brenda Buzynski (proxy for Bill Ruud)
Kacia Cain
John Carver
Rob Denson
Cindy Dietz (proxy for Kelly Ortberg)
Michelle Gowdy (proxy for Paul Schickler III)
Cathann Kress (proxy for Steven Leath)
Mark Putnam
Gary Scholten
Gail Wortmann
Brad Woody
Jeff Weld, Executive Director

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Council member Jordan Lampe (via phone); Jenny Becker, Rockwell Collins; Dr. Dave Wilkerson, Waukee Supt.; Regional STEM managers Beneke, Derry, Webb; support staff of the Governor's office; Hub institution representatives; technology support professionals, Strategic America; guests.

AGENDA

Welcome:

Co-chair Mary Andringa opened the meeting by phone, welcoming executive committee members and guests to yet another significant agenda aimed at moving Iowa STEM further along on its defining pathway. Of note lately were the STEM Townhalls held across the state to lift awareness among citizens regarding our important work. She cited Pella's recent stop as an example of the power of these events, fusing K-12 schools, local industries, city government, and

higher education - particularly Central College in this instance. Mark Putnam observed that a strong turnout of citizens and students exemplified the broad commitment to STEM education throughout the community and across the state. Similar events were held recently in Reinbeck, Corning, Spencer, Mt. Pleasant, and Marshalltown. Lt. Governor Reynolds' arrival to today's meeting was delayed by ten minutes due to a scheduling conflict. Her welcome included a pair of personnel announcements: the addition of Jeff Beneke as Northeast Regional STEM Manager at the UNI Hub, and a farewell to Kari Webb, Northwest Regional STEM Manager, who will transition to a leadership role within the Sioux City school district. Beneke joins the network team from a background of strength in energy education outreach throughout the Northeast, with a well-established record of school and business connections and project management. The Lt. Governor reflected on the distinguished record of accomplishment for Webb in her nearly two-year management of STEM in Iowa's Northwest sector, observing that Kari's been credited with catalyzing community partnerships as well as leading the statewide effort with regard to STEM-focused classrooms and numerous other programmatic innovations.

ITEM 1: Hub Evaluative Rubric

- The rubric is fully drafted for the executive committee's review and approval though this item was skipped and then tabled to July on account of time constraint.

ITEM 2: Center for Advanced Professional Studies

- Weld opened the conversation by inviting all who have visited a CAPS program (chiefly the Blue Valley school district facility in Kansas City or the Northlands cooperative model of North Kansas City) to help set the stage for addressing the question of whether Iowa's STEM Council ought to involve itself in promoting the model in Iowa. Recently, a contingent led by Lt. Governor Reynolds, including co-chair Mary Andringa, Jenny Becker of Rockwell Collins, Pat Barnes of John Deere, Myron Linn of Pella Corp., Governor's education advisor Linda Fandel, and STEM executive director Jeff Weld spent a one-day immersion in the two sites. Mary opened this segment of the meeting by framing CAPS as a business-education partnership focused on economic development. Others of the recent exploratory mission weighed in to clarify for the executive committee that CAPS is business-driven in terms of curriculum and career exposure, features that take career academies to a higher level. Contributors to the conversation encouraged that should the STEM Council play an active role, that existent assets including the Jacobson Entrepreneurship Center at UI, intermediaries such as KCC's Workplace Learning Connection, and ISU Extension's Research Farms be leveraged as well as the Council's own system of network managers and hubs.

Special guest Dr. Dave Wilkerson, Superintendent of Waukee schools shared with the executive committee his district's pioneering development of the CAPS model, a first for Iowa. Given the rapid growth of the district and the opportunity it presents for offering a unique business-education partnership, Dave has brought on board all stakeholder groups including parents, community leaders, the business sector, school administrators, staff, and students. Waukee is constructing a Center as well as rolling out satellite site-based learning centers hosted by a number of private sector partners. A blue ribbon board of advisors oversees planning and a program coordinator has been assigned. The focus of Waukee CAPS is on preparing graduates for a pathway toward Iowa jobs of high demand. A key aspect of the CAPS model is to engage business partners in offering their expertise in helping the school grow talent for their future workforce needs. A main tenet of CAPS is that it not look like or operate like a school but a job-embedded authentic work environment where students work side-by-side with professionals, in the presence of and facilitated by a qualified educator. Extensive conversation ensued, ranging in topics from the centrality of IT across the curriculum to an interest on the part of many metro school districts to potentially partner eventually.

Consensus of the executive committee was affirmative -- the STEM Council should play a role in advancing CAPS learning models across Iowa. The charge to the executive director is to assemble a taskforce to draw up a proposal for how the Council may incentivize CAPS expansion in Iowa. We will aim for presenting that proposal at the July meeting. Interested executive committee members, Council members, and other interested individuals should register their interest with Weld.

ITEM 3: Updates

- Scale-Up - Derry contrasted the recent third round Scale-Up competition to the first two as larger and therefore enduring of growing pains on path to deliver to as many of approximately 1,200 applicants as possible. Particularly popular by educator interest is the new "Pint-size Science" program of the Science Center of Iowa, importantly broadening the Council's reach into the pre-K realm across the state.

- Bimonthly financial statement -- Jastorff provided a detailed financial statement of real-time spending, highlighting major changes since March that included STEM-focused classroom invoices and overages in evaluation and marketing that will be covered by salary savings. Weld invited a motion to approve of the financial statement as presented. Denson motioned and Carver seconded the motion. No further discussion ensued. The vote was unanimous to approve.

- Development update -- Linn for Rankin provided a detailed accounting of grants and private sector investments in Iowa STEM to date since Rankin's assignment. Significant investments by Mid-American Energy and DuPont Pioneer add to the major investment by John Deere, among numerous smaller yet important donations.
- Higher education grand unifying proposal -- Weld cited the three components of a Memorandum of Understanding now signed on behalf of all community colleges by Mick Starcevich (thanks to an invitation by Denson for Weld to share at a recent community college presidents' meeting), and signed on behalf of all member institutions of the Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities by Gary Steinke (thanks to Mark Putnam whose letter of commitment launched this higher education collaborative), and signed by UNI President Bill Ruud (hoping that ISU and UI sign-ons are imminent) to (1) re-design introductory college STEM coursework; (2) collaboratively design STEM teacher endorsement pathways; and (3) Develop and deliver excellent STEM professional development for preK-12 educators across Iowa. The MOU has been developed over the course of a year of monthly convenings of higher education representatives, and will manifest as a major grant proposal coming out of the STEM Council's administrative office.
- OECD Test schools -- Weld tabled the update on this item to July.

ITEM 4: Committees

- Progress on Seal of Approval concept -- Lampe reiterated the goal of the effort (served by Gary Scholten, Mark Putnam, Kacia Cain, Debi Durham, Carrie Rankin, and of course Jordan) is to provide a simple, lightweight approach to building STEM momentum in Iowa. It needs to address gaps and help with a series of high priorities identified through a survey of Iowa businesses around STEM, including communication, marketing, and recruitment. It'll be key for the guidelines to integrate new programming with existing programs and to make STEM an everyday part of family life in Iowa. It will involve rubric-style criteria, and a complete processing of the survey data that is still rolling in. Another update will be requested for July, with the Council meeting of Sept. 12 set as debut target.
- Progress on engaging counselors and parents -- Denson held a discussion session on March 28 with STEM stakeholders engaged in counselor and parent connections to STEM. Many ideas and strategies have been proposed by the group in both the conference session and a subsequent survey conducted by Denson. Next step is to integrate those many great ideas with existent communications and programming efforts of Iowa's STEM Council in order to capitalize on talents and funding streams.

- Announcement regarding Williamsburg FIRST Lego League -- Jay Staker of ISU Extension announced to the Executive Committee that one of our prior scale-ups, FIRST Lego League, has produced yet another global competitor, the Williamsburg Robotic Raiders FLL team is one of three global finalists for top designation given out by FIRST.

CLOSING

Co-chair Lt. Governor Reynolds closed the meeting by highlighting the work being done that contributes to Iowa's national profile, including trailblazing work on an endorsement policy and higher education engagement. She is pleased with the outcome of today's conversation surrounding the CAPS model - a consensus that we move forward to grow the concept in Iowa. The beauty of the model, she quoted a lead administrator at the Blue Valley site, is to enable learners to "test drive the real world." Additionally she is excited about the increased demand and thus reach of Scale-Up this year to a significant proportion of Iowa youth. And, the further development and delivery to the Council a business engagement toolkit and its inter-woven seal of approval plan keep Iowa "out front" solving challenges and building a sustainable STEM infrastructure. Lt. Governor Reynolds really looks forward to these action-oriented meetings, thanking everyone for lending their time and expertise to Iowa STEM.

ADJOURNED: 12:00 PM

NEXT MEETING: July 17, 10:00am to noon, ICN Room, Grimes State Office Building.

Compiled by Jeff Weld