



**Governor's STEM Advisory Council
Executive Committee
Jan. 30, 2014
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds, co-chair
Mary Vermeer Andringa, co-chair
Brad Buck
Barry Butler (proxy for Sally Mason, via phone)
Kacia Cain
John Carver
Rob Denson
Cindy Dietz (proxy for Kelly Ortberg, via phone)
Debi Durham
Michelle Gowdy (proxy for Paul Schickler III)
Kerry Koonce (proxy for Teresa Wahlert)
Cathann Kress (proxy for Steven Leath)
Mark Putnam (via phone)
Bill Ruud
Gary Scholten
Gail Wortmann (via video)
Jeff Weld, Executive Director

REGIONAL MANAGERS:

Kristine Bullock
Lynne Campbell
Sarah Derry
Deb Frazee (via phone)
Kari Webb (via video)

GUESTS:

Jordan Lampe, Communications Director for Dwolla and STEM Advisory Council member, Governor's Office staff, Council administration staff, Hub institution staff and administrators, Committee members' staff, guest presenters, STEM stakeholders

AGENDA

Welcome:

Co-chair Mary Andringa opened the meeting by acknowledging the devotion of members as evidenced by their time commitment to STEM, especially recognizing special guests from St. Theresa school and Jordan Lampe, Communications Director for Dwolla and Advisory Council member. Mary cited passages from Governor Branstad's recent Condition of the State speech wherein STEM is a major focus moving forward, and a bipartisan priority. She considers STEM to be something every Iowan should be involved in – parents, merchants, elected officials, grandparents, etc., because the skill sets of a STEM education are important for everyone's future. Businesses across the state are poised to play a larger role

according to Mary, citing for example her own Vermeer Corporation's hosting of over 150 youth for Engineers Week, as well as numerous interns and teacher externs annually. Other examples abound that the Council will work to highlight over the coming year as we welcome more and more partners to our work. Governor's Condition of the State, 2014: <https://governor.iowa.gov/2014/01/gov-branstad-delivers-2014-condition-of-the-state-iowa-is-working/>

Exec. Dir. Weld introduced Assistant Director for Development Carrie Rankin who has been on the job since December. Carrie updated the executive committee on her work thus far, including numerous contacts with business partners from within as well as beyond the Council who consistently convey to Carrie their excitement for the STEM Council's work. Carrie's early priorities are to develop relationships with prospective and established partners, facilitating the identification of time, talent, and treasures for the benefit of Iowa STEM, and leading in the development of the Council's Business Engagement Toolkit.

1. ITEM 1: Sustainability Plan – Weld

- The executive director walked through the document "Sustainability of Iowa's Statewide STEM Initiative: Near and Long Term" to highlight the information sources – chiefly Advisory Council, Executive Committee, and three Regional Advisory Boards. Four consistent needs surfaced from all three groups – (1) Focus; (2) Resource sharing; (3) Publicity; and (4) Broaden participation. Everyone recognized the importance of engraining STEM into the culture of Iowa's existent institutions. A series of seven recommendations emerged from all of the conversations – two of which call for new working groups and five of which are extensions of work underway by the Council. The plan was endorsed by the executive committee, particularly the creation of a Focus working group and a Counselor/Parent Engagement working group.
- Executive committee members discussed a number of aspects of sustainability. Pres. Putnam recommended a partner validation concept whereby STEM efforts outside of the Council purview would be welcome, perhaps endorsed. Supt. Carver recommended that sustainability be realized through the recognition of exemplars such that successful strategies "go viral." Ms. Dietz asked that the Council consider its fundamental role and whether that role included the incubation of solutions to our STEM challenge, and how we could serve to develop ideas. NC Mngr. Campbell sees our role as to seed programs that have the potential for exponential growth.
- To jumpstart the Focus working group, executive committee members were asked what metrics or indicators they would recommend be prioritized. These emerged:
 - Diversification in STEM – under-represented group participation;
 - Post-secondary preparedness including middle skills preparation (as measured by ACT or SAT or NCRC, or another yet-to-be-defined measure of college/career readiness);
 - Public messaging effect (especially parents, on STEM occupations);
 - STEM literacy of k-12 and college graduates (could be a post-secondary metric);
 - Interest level of youth across the formal and informal educational spectrum;
 - Degree of engagement in STEM at the community level – especially as measured by business-school partnerships;

2. ITEM 2: Two questions for moving forward – Lampe and Weld

- Linking back to Pres. Putnam's sustainability contribution of item 1, the executive committee's guidance on how to support and nurture emergent STEM programs not of Council origin was sought. Developers and vendors appeal frequently to the Council for help

and at this time we have no policy. Jordan Lampe posed the question, driven by knowledge of compelling STEM events/organic ideas that need the support of the Council. It may involve some sort of sponsorship or endorsement strategy. Jordan offered preliminary thinking that such endorsement may follow on evidence of (1) Sustainability; (2) Repeatability; and (3) Scalability.

- The executive committee agreed to extend the invitation for a working group to recommend policy and procedure that may involve, according to Mr. Lampe, (1) a criteria for the status of “endorsed”; (2) budgeting funds to tactical growth of endorsees; (3) communication and outreach that includes highlights or showcases and recruiting of candidates.
- Jordan Lampe has agreed to lead this charge on behalf of the Council, with executive committee members Kacia Cain, Debi Durham, Mark Putnam, and Gary Scholten expressing interest in helping. Others from Council and beyond will be invited to contribute as well.
- The second question of Item 2 – First considerations on year 3 Hub renewal or re-cast?— was tabled for March 7.

3. ITEM 3: [Scheduled as Item 5 on Agenda, moved up] Saint Theresa Scale-Up Showcase: Carolina STEM and Gateway to Technology

- Carolina STEM’s Tracy Landrum and Angie DeMoss were on hand to introduce outstanding educators Justin Gill and Ronda McCarthy along with school Principal Ellen Stemler and students from the 5th and 8th grades. Justin and Ronda were awarded the Scale-Up programs Carolina STEM (5th grade) and Project Lead The Way Gateway to Technology through the Governor’s STEM Advisory Council.
- The fifth graders demonstrated hands-on projects around animal habitats, microbes, and food chemistry. Eighth graders touted software that enabled them to build 3-D architectural scale models as well as robotics assembly that taught them about vectors and programming.

4. ITEM 4: [Item 3 on agenda] Scale-Up Round III Update and Coming Vote- Sarah Derry

- Dr. Sarah Derry, South Central Regional Manager at the Drake University Hub leads development of round III of the Council’s signature program, Scale-Up. Sarah distributed an excel spreadsheet of 29 proposals received. She is currently orchestrating a process by which a strong panel of reviewers consisting of educators, business representatives, elected officials and other STEM experts rate the proposals against a well-developed rubric. Proposals must demonstrate prior success in building student interest and achievement. They are also rated on their evidence of drawing students of diversity to STEM, and their likelihood to be sustainable.
- Following the numeric rating stage, a qualitative review subcommittee of that body will consider questions of balance across STEM and across grade levels, before making final recommendations to the co-chairs and executive committee on February 18.
- Educators across Iowa will be invited to apply for approved programs beginning on February 24. The entire Scale-Up initiative has become highly refined as a result of two Continuous Improvement ‘Kaizen’-style sessions hosted by Vermeer Corporation.

5. ITEM 5: [Item 6 on agenda] Bimonthly financial statement – Kari Jastorff

- Kari walked through the financial statement detailing real-time balance of funds for Iowa STEM, highlighting changes since the November meeting. This budget is posted to www.iowaSTEM.gov for public viewing, as are the regional STEM budgets.

- The exec. director invited a motion to proceed to vote on approval of the financial statement as presented. Pres. Ruud made the motion which was seconded by Michelle Gowdy. No further discussion ensued; the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

CLOSING

Lt. Governor Reynolds closed the meeting by expressing her excitement about our steady progress enabled through the bipartisan support of the Iowa legislature. She is inspired by the teachers and learners of Saint Teresa school who represent all of the outstanding recipients of Scale-Up programs across the state. The Lt. Governor conveyed her deep appreciation to her co-chair Mary Andringa for her vision and devotion of time. Finally, she reflected on her encounters with educators, business representatives, community leaders, and elected officials across the state who are all energized about the STEM work being done – both the organic local solutions as well as the tactics implemented by STEM Council partners. It's all a credit to this executive committee and the broader advisory council.

ADJOURNED: 3:50PM

NEXT MEETING*: Friday, March 7, 2014, 10:00am to 12:00pm, ICN Room, Grimes State Office Building.

*Tele-conference to vote on Scale-Ups on February 18, 4:30pm

Compiled by Jeff Weld