



Governor's STEM Advisory Council
Executive Committee 24
December 16, 2015
8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Nelson, co-chair
Barry Butler
Kacia Cain
John Carver
Rob Denson
Robin Habeger (proxy for Paul Schickler)
Cathann Kress (proxy for Steven Leath)
Kelly Ortberg
Mark Putnam
William Ruud
Gary Scholten
Beth Townsend
Ryan Wise
Gail Wortmann
Jeff Weld, Executive Director

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Regional STEM managers Bullock, Derry, Faber, Frazee, Gibbins; Governor's office and STEM Council staff; Hub institution representatives; Science Center of Iowa staff, Strategic America; guests.

AGENDA

Welcome:

Curt Simmons, President and CEO of the Science Center of Iowa welcomed members of the Executive Committee to the board room of the SCI, a staunch member of Iowa's "STEM family."

Opening:

A family commitment necessitated the absence of Co-Chair Lt. Governor Reynolds and in her place, Executive Committee member Gary Scholten opened the meeting. His remarks centered around Iowa's continuing need for STEM talent with The Principal as a case in point as a major employer of information technology skilled workers. STEM is therefore a legislative priority for his company. That backdrop framed his assessment of the status and outlook for our Council: the

thousands of young lives being impacted, the national acclaim we've achieved, the bipartisan support, and inroads toward sustainability all lead to the inevitable question Where from here? The question queued up the day's theme: strategic planning.

Co-chair Dr. Chris Nelson bolstered Mr. Scholten's observations with the Kemin Industries dependency on a steady stream of STEM-trained and educated human resources. Sixty-three openings exist right now for STEM positions, and he especially recognizes the importance of our work in drawing more women toward these opportunities.

ITEM 1: REPORTS: FY2016 Financial Summary and Development Update

- FY2016 Quarterly Financial Summary was presented by Program Manager Jastorff. The motion to vote to approve of the financial summary as presented was made by Rob Denson. Discussion conveying confidence in the open, clear, and accountable method of financial reporting by Kari ensued. The executive committee voted unanimously to approve.
- The Development Update was presented by Assistant Director for Development Carrie Rankin. Her report details chronologically the gifts and grants invested in Iowa STEM by private and public entities, by amounts, and by designated purposes. Carrie reminded members that gifts are routed through the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation while state and federal grants are routed through UNI's Office of Sponsored Programs. Members inquired about (a) the value of members accompanying Carrie on her corporate visits; (b) the unrestricted versus targeted inclinations of most donors; (c) Fairs and school administrators as venues and asks, respectively; and (d) leveraging members to "open doors" to heretofore untapped resources. The point was made that Carrie's role and charge may be best served by packaging a strategic fundraising campaign around priorities determined as a result of today's meeting.

ITEM 2: Executive Committee Guidance of Iowa STEM: Three Year Outlook

- In possession of Executive Committee Members were the FY2016 budget, the FY2016 array of programs, and select indicators both strong and weak as well as under-measured. Director Weld opened the conversation reflecting on the first Executive Committee meeting on Sept. 14, 2011 at which time members including Denson, Carver, Wortmann and Butler set a five year vision to include aspiring to a nationally recognized brand, a regional network infrastructure, a scaling process, a public messaging campaign, model schools, teacher preparedness in STEM, and gains toward student interest and achievement. Now, as Mr. Scholten opened the day, the question is Where from here?
- Lively discussion ensued. Mr. Ortberg recommended a focus on priorities shared across agencies indicative of the Administration's goals, notably reading and literacy. Mr. Ruud observed the integration of arts and humanities as vital for the full realization of our STEM objectives. Ms. Cain adjusted visions in light of the reality of the classroom

teacher prepared to best serve in one's content area. Mr. Carver recommended re-imagining schools of the 21st century unbound by tradition and isolation. Ms. Wortmann noted that content-area reading is amply supported by best practices of the Next Generation Science Standards to which Mr. Wise advised that nonfiction and informational reading is widely supported as an integrated content solution at the elementary level. Mr. Putnam contributed the perspective that STEM principally engages at three levels: messaging, catalysis, and programming, and that although all three are vital and ought to continue, a change in emphasis may be in order such that amplifying the catalyst role (identifying, leveraging, and engaging stakeholders and leaders across the state to carry all of this work forward) may be the path toward permanence, sustainability. As case-in-point, he offered that the IAICU could be enlisted to aggregate resources in a particular area of need to deliver solutions to our state – computer science professional development, for example. Mr. Scholten translated the catalyst vision to the Governor's Future Ready initiative as another example of a leverageable action front. Mr. Denson supported an amplified role for STEM in the higher education – industry bridge as a solution to the Gallup poll-identified chasm between work readiness perceptions of graduates (strong among college leaders, weak among industry leaders). Mr. Ruud advised that the pathways to careers metrics of the IBC could guide and inform progress. Dir. Weld lamented the evaporation of time and extracted three main action items: (1) Adopt a reading integration priority for Iowa STEM when possible, including in the selection of annual scale-up programs supportive of reading, and to measure reading scores of program participating youth; (2) Develop the catalyst role of Iowa STEM to deepen, penetrate and sustain STEM programs and messaging in communities across Iowa; and (3) Hone metrics in partnership with evaluators that capture the STEM Council's success in establishing pathways to careers in STEM.

CLOSING

Co-chair Dr. Chris Nelson closed the meeting by contextualizing the discussion in terms of business cycles: a good year ought to lead not to complacency but to striving toward the next level and new goals. All the while watching indicators, making data-driven decisions, and aiming to fill in the gaps. He thanked members for their engagement, guidance, and devotion to STEM in Iowa.

ADJOURNED: 8:46 AM

NEXT MEETING: January 13, 2016, 6:00pm dial-in (details forthcoming)

Compiled by Jeff Weld