



Governor's STEM Advisory Council  
Executive Committee 23  
June 23, 2015  
8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, co-chair  
Mary Vermeer Andringa, co-chair  
Brad Buck  
Kacia Cain  
John Carver  
Rob Denson  
Cathann Kress (proxy for Steven Leath)  
Barry Butler (proxy for Sally Mason)  
Cindy Dietz (proxy for Kelly Ortberg)  
Mark Putnam  
William Ruud  
John Arbuckle (proxy for Paul Schickler)  
Beth Townsend  
Brad Woody  
Jeff Weld, Executive Director

**MEMBERS NOT REPRESENTED**

Deborah Durham  
Gary Scholten  
Gail Wortmann

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Regional STEM managers Beneke, Bullock, Derry, Faber, Frazee, Gibbins; Governor's office and STEM Council staff; Hub institution representatives; Monsanto staff, Strategic America; guests.

**AGENDA**

**Welcome:**

Co-chairs Lt. Governor Reynolds and Mary Andringa opened the meeting by welcoming executive committee members and guests to an ambitious agenda aimed at moving Iowa STEM further along on its trailblazing pathway. Lt. Governor Reynolds informed the executive committee that this was to be the final meeting for co-chair Mary Andringa as she transitions to

her appointed role on the Board of Regents, State of Iowa. Mary Andringa commented to the group that the experience has been rewarding and great fun while making a significant impact on the education system of Iowa. Weld shared news of the administration's August 3 weekly press conference devoted to the annual report on STEM. Further communications regarding the event will be forthcoming.

**ITEM 1: REPORTS: FY2015 Financial Summary, FY2016 proposed budget, Strategic America Year in Review, Innovation Fund application, STEM BEST/RLE RFP, and Corporate Gifts report**

- FY2015 Financial Summary was presented by Program Manager Jastorff. Executive committee members inquired as to categories of overspend and under-spend. Also discussed was carry-over. State funds are not eligible for carry-over while private sector investments are. All state funds for FY2015 are encumbered as is the case with most of the private sector funds. A motion to approve the financial statement as presented was advanced by William Ruud and seconded by Robert Denson. The executive committee voted unanimously to approve.
- FY2016 Proposed budget was presented by Jastorff and Weld. Narrative which accompanied the budget noted that state funding for the coming year is held level. And, each category of expense is maintained from FY2015 except for two. Approximately \$10,000 is to be shifted from marketing and promotion to operations center staff cost of living increases effective July 1. A motion was advanced by John Carver to approve of the FY2016 budget proposal, Cathann Kress seconded the motion. The executive committee voted unanimously to approve.
- Dawn Buzynski of Strategic America presented a series of slides depicting the year in review regarding public messaging for STEM. The presentation is archived as part of the meeting materials for June 23, 2015. The impact of Strategic America's efforts were observed to be a significant contributor to the Council's ability to advance STEM education in Iowa. Most of the work done by Strategic America is at 50% cost-share. The executive committee accepted the report.
- NW STEM Regional Manager Jeff Beneke presented the draft proposal form for a regional innovation fund pool. He positioned the need for such an undertaking as essential for incubating and vetting innovative local programs of promise that currently have no funding pathway through STEM but that may prove worthy of scaling. Funding for the innovation pool would need to be derived from private sector contributions. Beneke clarified that Assistant Director Rankin (absent) envisions a community foundations campaign as local programming of promise may suit that investment sector better than any current or previous STEM Council programming. The executive committee accepted the report. The proposal is archived as part of the meeting materials for June 23, 2015.

- SE Regional Manager Kristine Bullock and Weld presented the draft STEM BEST (Business Engaging Students and Teachers) and combined STEM Redesigned Learning Environment request for proposals. Members were reminded that four Iowa schools are now Council partners on redesigned learning environments as a result of 2013/14 awards, and five school-business consortia are now STEM BEST partners on 2014/15 awards. Impacts are already being noted, as was shared by Bullock. The executive committee accepted the draft proposal which will go live on July 6. The combined RFP is archived as part of the meeting materials for June 23, 2015.
- Time expired before presenting the Corporate Gifts Report was able to be presented. Weld pointed it out in the packet of materials provided to members and asked that they look through it when they get a chance. The report is archived as part of the meeting materials for June 23, 2015.

## **ITEM 2: Scale-Up Proposal Process 2016-17**

- SE Regional STEM Manager Sarah Derry and Weld described to the executive committee a rationale for re-setting the menu of program options as part of the annual Scale-Up initiative. Currently fourteen programs are scaling across Iowa. Each is a great partner making profound differences in the lives of thousands of youth and hundreds of educators. Partnering with Change The Equation last year to co-build both their STEM Works Database as well as Iowa's Scale-Up menu, evaluation and vetting of proposals was made far stronger and more effective. Most Iowa programs enjoyed a second year "roll-over" in response to teachers who requested a certain level of consistency in offerings. Presenters believe that the opportunity now arises as a result of these improvements for a re-build of the program menu by asking all current as well as past and new program providers to re-apply for FY2017. A motion to approve of the re-application process for all program providers was made by William Ruud. The motion was seconded by Mark Putnam. The executive committee voted unanimously for the motion.

## **CLOSING**

Co-chairs Lt. Governor Reynolds and Mary Andringa closed the meeting by thanking members for their engagement, guidance, and devotion to STEM in Iowa. The important work of this group is clearly changing lives and by all indications, is delivering on its commitment to drive a resurgence in interest in STEM for the benefit of education, for business, for Iowa's economy at large, and ultimately for the benefit of individual Iowans whose lives will be better with strong STEM educations.

ADJOURNED: 8:46 AM

NEXT MEETING: September 15, 2015, Marshalltown (details forthcoming)

Compiled by Jeff Weld