



GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

dedicated to building a strong STEM education foundation for all Iowans

Governor's STEM Advisory Council
Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting
August 20, 2018 | 11:00AM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Co-Chair Governor Kim Reynolds
Co-Chair Accumold President and CEO Roger Hargens
Ex-Officio Interim Executive Director Cindy Dietz
Ms. Kacia Cain, Des Moines Central Campus
President Rob Denson, Des Moines Area Community College
Director Debi Durham, Iowa Economic Development Authority
Major General Timothy Orr, Iowa National Guard
President Mark Putnam, Central College
Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer Gary Scholten, Principal Financial Group
Director Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Development
Mr. Steven Triplett, proxy for The University of Iowa President Bruce Harreld
President Wendy Wintersteen, Iowa State University
Director Ryan Wise, Iowa Department of Education

Members of the Executive Committee of the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council were convened by co-chairs Governor Kim Reynolds, Accumold President and CEO Roger Hargens and Interim Executive Director Cindy Dietz by telephone conference on August 20, 2018, 11:00 a.m.

Governor Reynolds provided welcoming remarks in which she also introduced the Computer Science is Elementary project. Below are a few of the project highlights.

- The goal of this project is to transform six high-poverty elementary schools across Iowa into showcases for innovative, high-quality computer science instruction.
- This will create more opportunity for their students, including work-based learning with employers to connect the classroom to future careers.
- It also will establish a dynamic network of computer science teacher expertise that can serve as a statewide resource for all public and non-public elementary schools.
- The inspiration for this project is Loess Hills Computer Programming School in Sioux City.
- Sioux City pioneered one of the first computer science elementary schools in the nation in 2015 when Loess Hills started teaching computational thinking and other skills, such as problem solving and teamwork.
- At Loess Hills children are not just learning to code, they are also building confidence.

IOWA GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

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- Loess Hills is willing to serve as a blueprint for the Computer Science is Elementary project, in keeping with the Future Ready Iowa initiative to prepare more Iowans for rewarding, high-demand jobs.
- We need to raise \$450,000 to launch the Computer Science is Elementary project. After that the six selected schools can operate with existing school funding streams, like Loess Hills does now.
- The \$450,000 will provide \$50,000 one-time planning grants for each of the six schools; \$50,000 for Loess Hills to serve as a blueprint; and \$100,000 for a project manager.
- Principal Financial Group is leading fundraising for the project along with the Governor's STEM Advisory Council.
- In addition to Principal Financial Group, other supporters at present include Mid-American and Kemin Industries.
- The Computer Science is Elementary advisory group will meet beginning August 29 to design the criteria that public and nonpublic elementary school applicants must meet to be selected.
- Next steps would include the STEM Council issuing requests for proposals from schools in winter 2019 and announcing the awards in spring 2019.
- All this ties in with other efforts to rapidly expand computer science instruction K-12.
- The Computer Science is Elementary project also aligns with Iowa's new law encouraging all elementary, middle and high schools to offer high-quality computer science instruction, including a new \$1 million professional development incentive fund to train teachers.

Co-Chair Hargens added his endorsement of the project, noting that Computer Science is Elementary could be a game changer. Iowa is making great progress, yet there is a lot of work left to do.

At this time, the STEM Council Executive Committee members were asked for their endorsement of the project and its goals.

By those present, there was unanimous endorsement of the Computer Science is Elementary project.

The meeting concluded at 11:15 a.m.

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