

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON WOMEN AND GIRLS EDUCATION AND STEAM SUBCOMMITTEE

Virtual Meeting Agenda

April 7, 2021

1:00 p.m.

I. Welcome remarks

Those present: Alexandra Novak, Abby Jewett, Shannon Marimon, Patrice Gans, Lisa Roy, Margaret Hackett, Kristin Violette, Judith Slisz, Dona Maglio, Ellyn Savard, Elizabeth Radday, Lindy Lee Gold, Melissa Hickey, Conor Geary, Elizabeth Durgin, Candace Freedenberg, Eric Smith, Lynn Raicik, Pam Casiano, Nana Amos, Elizabeth Shapiro, Dr. Heidi Gold-Dworkin, Rhona Free, Mary Bidwell, Alyce Styles, Carolyn Alessi, Joseph Bierbaum, Laura Baker, Norman Sondheimer, Lyn Caliendo, Debra Goss, Janice Floyd and Noele Kidney

Janice Floyd thanked members for everyone's effort and commitment.

II. March Women in Arts Series update

Joe Bierbaum gave a review of the successful event that celebrated women in the arts over the month of March. Every school day – a post highlighting a woman in the arts – spanning all art types. The Series accepted works from women and girls across the state of CT for posting. This event began as an in-person fair but the campaign ended up being far more outreaching than an in-person event would have been. There were a lot of engagements – sharing and liking of posts. Posts are still getting active views, active likes, and active comments during the month of April. Paier College will continue to steward the page so that if the group decides to do this again next year, it'll be ready to go. Social media handles were placed in the chat for review and participation. Conor from Paier College, who was instrumental in managing the social media series added that there was a significant amount of material that was sent in. "This shows that there is a real thirst for a venue like this."

III. Subcommittee reports

Coding Challenge update: Kristin Violette – Coding Challenge deadline approaching on April 30th. Holding webinars monthly on different topics – these are still available and helpful for problem solving, supporting teachers, and community leaders involved in the effort. Also offering available resources to create coding computing solution component. There will be two more webinars scheduled. So far there's been good feedback. As far as additional support – mentorships have been paired with extra mentors – this is positive statement as to how teachers are feeling. Google volunteers are giving feedback to students on submissions. Launchpad is the platform. So far, 110 profiles have been started, 31 have development challenge. All submissions have been from CT public schools and 1/3 had been female. Community partner submissions are lacking; we will focus on this in the future. Highlighting an extra incentive for opportunity districts that have a successful

submission – Google VR readers will be sent to them. Trying to increase their social media presence: @ltgovcc1 @ltgovcc Anticipating a lot more submissions in the next few weeks as the deadline gets nearer.

Arts update: The arts team is partnering with the Creative Futures Campaign. The first phase is scheduled to go through the end of the summer. Fox61 has been highlighting a different interview with a different artists <https://www.fox61.com/connecticut-creative-futures> Includes short form lessons for K-12. Students are encouraged to take a lesson and submit it to the gallery. Any student is able to take a photo or video and submit it to the gallery. All students encouraged to participate and “show us your art” by uploading photos and/video to our website: www.fox61.com/CTArts

Info for the contests:

Here's the contest spot for approval:

<https://vimeo.com/user10368726/review/533158304/bbb16d7b77>

The contest spot will be revised to feature the monthly local artist, art lesson, contest dates and prize –

Art Lessons:

- April Art Lesson 1 – contest dates: 4/1-29/21 (Shanna Melton – poetry art lesson)
- May Art Lesson 2 – contest dates: 5/1-29/21 (Noah Todd – puppetry lesson)
- June Art Lesson 3 – contest dates: 6/1-29/21 (Kimolee Eryn – writing lesson)

Contest:

- One random winner selected each month during April, May, and June 2021
- One monthly winner – receives 1:1 art lesson/master class from artist + \$100 gift card to Michael's Arts & Crafts

[Road Safety Art Contest | FMCSA \(dot.gov\)](#)

Information Hub update: Eric Smith – currently analyzing platforms. Determined to try to bring on board an intern to gather the information. 4 applicants applied and resumes are being reviewed. By the end of this month, we will make a determination on a successful candidate. August would be their start date.

Internship update: Lynn Raicik reported out for the group. Great first quarter – it's been monumental task. In the process of putting a final plan in place. Great intern working with us taking material from last year and turning into canvas. January and February were dedicated toward focus groups to determine who and what should be included into google docs. March continued and finalized research – working through table of contents and a marketing message for interns and employers. Hoping to end April with a final document of the tool kit. 1 ½ session in April to get it finalized. Received email from Elizabeth – uncovered a YouTube video where interns selling a video and the program they are in (this was an insurance company.) The toolkit will be a resource for both the state and private sector The group will work with Trinity health to pilot the toolkit.

Million Women Mentors Connecticut Chapter – Carolyn Alessi, State working chair of Million Women Mentors CT. Lt. Gov. is honorary chair. Working on project with UCONN digital team – creating mini video vignettes highlighting Women in STEM. Asked group to reach out to her if

they have any suggestions for subjects. **Jackson Laboratories – DNA Day is April 25th**. Tool kit will be distributed to schools and universities that want to commemorate the day. Anyone who wants to be a mentor or who would like to be profiled on MWM website, please reach out to Carolyn.

IV. Announcement of next meeting scheduled for June 16, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

V. Recess to break into individual working groups for Arts, Coding Challenge/Tech Champions, Information Hub and Internship – each group should have a note taker.

VI. Meeting adjourned.

Internship Group - break-out notes

Attendees:

- Rhona Free
- Laura M. Baker
- Debra Goss
- Mary Bidwell
- Elizabeth Durgin
- Nana Amos
- Lynn Raicik

TASKS MOVING FORWARD:

- Insert “introduction” providing language around the origin and purpose of this project coming out of COWAG. Janice will send PowerPoint used in February’s meeting.
- Focus on to be on College interns with adaptations moving forward
- Final draft to be written with a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion lens (see PDF attachment to this email or access here: <https://nonprofitoregon.org/sites/default/files/NAO-Equity-Lens-Guide-2019.pdf>)
- For high school intern guidance as we move forward, review Hartford Consortium for Higher Education student resources / Career Beginnings. <https://hartfordconsortium.org/programs/career-beginnings>
- Include a list of schools to assist with recruiting interns from diverse populations
- Send Rhona Free Harita’s draft version of the Toolkit

Arts Group – break out notes

Attendees – Cindy, Melissa, Lindy, Joe, Alex, Elizabeth and Jackie. Lindy suggested a virtual tour of arts departments at different universities and colleges in CT. This could be produced by the departments themselves. Alex Novak – a lot of careers that are arts-based. Highlight women artists that are STEM based. Similar to what we just did – use Facebook and Instagram. Focus on women who are artists that work in STEM. Lindy – Also – showcase, gather and highlight theater work that high school students have done. Material that is already out on the web. Survey HS and ask for performing arts videos to share – choirs, band, concert choirs and plays.

Information Hub – break out notes

Internship Applicant: we reviewed the consensus of the Applicants for the summer internship put forth. Recap of all applicants being more policy oriented than having necessary IT skills for the project. Nicole confirmed they would move forward with 2nd interviews with two of the applicants based on the voting. This candidate would be valuable to contribute in a content writing capacity. Additional IT Resource: we discussed the need for deeper level IT resource and how to solution. Alternatives were proposed including

1. UCONN Masters Intern (waiting until August)
2. Donation from IT provider in partnership from COWAG
3. Returning Professional IT Resource - a woman with a STEM-background eager to gain skills in return-to-work program

Further we discussed the need to get going sooner rather than later with the high level needs of such a system so that when the intern comes on board it is clear the next steps ready for their contribution. The steps may include:

1. Developing the broad and narrowed audience - their needs, personas. This is necessary such that the content is developed in a 'right' voice.
2. Functional requirements - down selecting system understanding all ct.gov requirements and review of off-the-shelf system (saas) capabilities and leverage for CRM or tools that do meet ct.gov requirements
3. Flow charting of user experience including high-level messaging for content development
4. Identify which specific functions or user experience need deeper coding
5. Task that work with an affordable means

We closed with the action of gathering the existing materials to above goals and meeting next to determine how to resource the appropriate candidate to do the near-term preparation tasks.

Coding Challenge – group did not meet as they have a regularly scheduled weekly group meeting.