

**GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON WOMEN AND GIRLS
EDUCATION AND STEAM SUBCOMMITTEE
Virtual Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 17, 2021
1:00 p.m.**

I. Welcome remarks -Director Larson began the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

II. Subcommittee reports

- **Information Hub** – Noele – intern will begin soon. July meeting was focused on determining programs he’ll need so that he can get to work right away.
- **Internship** – Lynn - Meeting at the beginning of August – continuing with the review of the toolkit. Members are submitting changes and suggestions.
- **Arts** – Elizabeth – currently meeting every two weeks. Working on meeting with the governor’s prevention partnership to add an arts component to their STEM Mentorship guide – make it a STEAM Mentorship guide. Working on finding partnerships to help elevate women and girls in the arts.
- **Coding Challenge** – no update

III. Steering Committee member presentations (*approximately 3-5 minutes each*)

- **University of St. Joseph** - President Rhona Free - St. Joes focuses on students who want to go into healthcare, social services, education professions. We focus on our location primarily because in most career study, college students must have had internships, field placements, etc. to be considered career ready. With its location so close to Hartford, St. Joseph students have easy geographical access to these opportunities. Internship Toolkit will be an extremely valuable resource – for both students and employers who want to establish internships while also ensuring that they are complying with all of the legal and educational requirements. Co-educational. Flexible schedules for working adults. All classes are taught by faculty, not teaching assistants. Average class size is 14 students/ 8:1. Emphasize for students the return on investment – US News and World Report - #1 in CT in social mobility, #3 in state as a national university behind Yale and UCONN and #1 in CT as an A+ school for B students.
- **Little Scientists** – Dr. Heidi Dworkin-Gold – Dr. Gold is a CT native and a scientist who was encouraged early on to pursue a career in science. Took a leave of absence from Yale when expecting oldest child. As soon as she could speak, she began asking “how, what, and why things work” questions. I looked for ways to explain science to my daughter and was nothing available thirty years ago so I began designing programs for her and her friends to explain science – it was out of that that Little Scientists was born. Hands on, minds-on inquiring based

approach to learning. Have worked with educators and scientists from Yale, MIT and Cornell on 450+ science programs and lessons for students Pre-K-Grade 8. Concept is licensed in Japan and South Korea and have developed and published science hands-on activity books. Incorporated in 1995. Great Science for all 2017 – non-profit whose mission is to eliminate the socio-economic achievement gap. 2020 – Little-Great Scientists – Grades 3-8 – they’ve done a lot of virtual classes, currently working on an online science simulation to integrate hands-on learning within virtual learning.

- **CT Voices** – Jennifer Quaye-Hudson – We are a think and do tank. Produce both research and advocacy. Research can be divided into 3 buckets – economic security, fiscal economics, and emerging issues. Initiatives: tax reform programming including child tax credits, earned income tax credit; Earlycare to ensure that families have access to quality childcare especially in light of the pandemic so that mothers can get back to work; Housing – women and girls are significantly impacted by evictions; and Juvenile Justice – launched a coalition of 120 organizations all working on issues within the justice system that impact women and girls, mental health, re-entry, etc.
- **Untapped Potential** – Candace Freedenberg – CT-based benefit-corporation that was launched in 2015. Advancing business and reigniting careers of women in STEM. Focused on giving women a path back to the workforce – helping them to be career ready. Trying to keep women engaged in some form so that when ready, they can go back to work as full employed by assisting to remove biases against mothers and build candidate confidence with mentors, coaching and mid-career internships.
- **Jackson Laboratories** – Lisa Roy, Director of Governmental and Community Relations at Jackson Laboratories. Welcome the opportunity to host the committee at some point in the future. A non-profit biomedical research institution founded over 90 years ago with locations in Maine, Connecticut, California and China. Current research areas includes cancer, Alzheimer’s and dementia, addiction, diabetes and many more. Farmington – human genomics with clinical partnerships with UCONN Health, Children’s, St. Francis, Hartford Hospital. Highlighted education programs for students and teachers internship programs, summer student programs and professional development for teachers and others.
- **GIRLS INC of Western CT** – Donna Maglio – recognized as the very first girls club in the nation. Founded and Operated out of Waterbury serving girls aged 5-18 and have a FULL STEAM ACADEMY run by adult mentors. LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMING – 100% grad rate. 92% higher education completion rate that includes traditional college and trade schools, and approximately 90% of alum

come back and are engaged in some manner. We welcome the opportunity to partner with more.

- **Girls Who Code** – Valerie Tomici – community partnerships manager for Girls Who Code, organization established in 2012 to close the gender gap in programming. The non-profit has reached 450,000 girls across the country. Seeing great progress in the increase of women graduating from college with computer programming degrees. Highlighted the CLUBS PROGRAM – 120 hours of flexible and interactive curriculum for 3rd-12th graders – in-person or virtual.

IV. Announcement of next meeting – October 13, 2021 (Virtual)

V. Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.