

# Governor's Council of Women and Girls

## Education and STEAM Subcommittee

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

3:00 p.m.

### Meeting Minutes

**CONVENE** - Education and STEAM Subcommittee meeting convened at 3:02 p.m. Noele Kidney, Office of Higher Education, welcomed all of those in attendance. Commissioner Magubane and Executive Director Larson were unable to attend due to agency business.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Computing Challenge** – Jennifer Michalek gave the report. Lt. Governor's Computing Challenge is going well with the launch at the end of January. There has been financial commitment from Talon and currently finalizing a grant to the Infosys Foundation, USA for the amount of \$16,500. ReadyCT has agreed to serve as our fiscal lead. Carolyn Alessi and Matt Mervis are actively working on securing additional funding. Mentor opportunities are being finalized and we have partnered with the Worth Institute of Entrepreneurship and Innovation out of UCONN to assist students who are participating in our concept challenge. Kristin Violette has been working incredibly hard at securing pacing guide, videos and creating a structure for office hours for support. EDAdvance is our partner in this work and they're running the tech side of things. Talon created a flyer for the challenge. Trying to create a stronger social media presence – we've been relying on Jonathan for assist with this.
- **Information Hub** – Jonathan Richter introduced himself and gave the report. Bureau of Information Technology Solutions has been engaged and development of the website is going well. The Information Hub team hopes it will become a one stop solution resource for parents, educators and students and will help stem the STEAM gap that occurs with many young girls. Hoping to include a lot of different resources for teenagers and use the hub to link them together in a digital atmosphere. It is our goal that outside organizations and groups can submit postings for opportunities and activities. Content list has been sent to BITS and we're optimistic to have the website up and running in a few months.
- **ARTS** – Holly Maxon, Supervisor of Fine Arts for Waterbury Public Schools – partnered with Shakespearean Production, the Waterbury YMCA and the Tech Museum Boys and Girls Club of Greater Waterbury to develop an after-school program to allow students to shadow technical, creative as well as administrative positions at the Palace Theatre. The program will be held once per semester over the course of a few months to learn about Broadway shows appearing at the Palace Theatre. Sometimes they'll get free tickets and sometimes they'll get cast and crew post-performance talkbacks, and also, they'll be able to attend Masterclasses by performing professionals. In addition – they'll be able to shadow administrative professionals and technical arts, such as costume design, construction/lighting/set design, stage management, graphic design marketing and even accounting. Elizabeth Shapiro reported that the Connecticut Office

of the Arts (DECD) recently approved a grant for \$10,000 to LiveGirl to fund 5-10 paid internships for high school girls in art institutions. This is a great opportunity to let young women know that there are plenty of other careers in the Arts other than strictly performing.

- **Internship** – Lynn Raicik – no official update other than to say that the Internship Toolkit has been compiled and is in review currently. Looking forward to partnering with the Information Hub because it aligns very well, and the toolkit can be accessed easily through it.
- **Million Women Mentors** – Carolyn Alessi – Million Women Mentors had a fantastic national mentoring month in January. The Mentoring Committee, which is focused on kindergarten through college is hosting along with the CT Science Center. Holding a STEM Career Showcase breakout panel session on February 23<sup>rd</sup> – what if I knew then what I know now as a professional what I should have pursued in high school that would have helped me in college AND would have prepared me for my professional track. It's going to be a great event. CT Science Center is having a number of industry partners come in to showcase their industries from 9 to noon on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The event format will be both in-person and virtual. Currently reviewing nominees for the MWM STEM Mentorship Awards – recognition ceremony will be held on March 4<sup>th</sup> with Lt. Governor participating. Categories include Youth in Action for ages 8-15, Next Gen Role Model for ages 16-21, and then Mentor Female/Male and Corporate Colleague Resource. Mentoring UP Advisory Committee focuses on level up women in senior level positions. Developing a Career video project where people submit mentoring advice or mentoring questions/work dilemmas and leaders in various STEM industries give their advice. If anyone is interested in being involved or participating in the video project, please reach out Carolyn or send an email to the MWM mailbox.

**ADJOURNMENT** - The next meeting date of March 15<sup>th</sup> was announced, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.