

Governor's Council on Women and Girls
Education and STEAM Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes – October 14, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Co-chair Timothy Larson (OHE Executive Director.)

Those in attendance were Kristin Violette, Donna Maglio, Ellyn Savard, Erika Taylor, Melissa Hickey, Irene Parisi, Jennifer Quaye-Hudson, Elizabeth Durgin, Cherie Phoenix-Sharpe, Andrea Kovacs, Eric Smith, Lynn Raicik, Pam Casiano, Melanie Tavares, Rhona Free, Mary Bidwell, Carolyn Alessi, Joseph Bierbaum, Heather McDonald, Norman Sondheimer, Gwen Brantley, Debra Goss, Janice Floyd and Noele Kidney.

Welcome remarks – Director Larson welcomed all in attendance. Remarked that staff are working on planning a meeting format for the December meeting that allows the subcommittee to hold break-out sessions for the four teams.

Subcommittee Lead updates and proposed plans:

INTERNSHIP – Rhona Free (St. Joseph University) reported that the group has developed a table of contents and model of a toolkit for Internships that includes guidelines for hosting interns, compliance, learning opportunities and attracting a diverse population. Most of the work left to do is collecting the information/data and compiling the tool kit – asked if there is anyone who has the time to do this? Possibly an intern or a committee member who has an intern? She added that the tool kit would be a good resource for more than just STEAM opportunities.

ARTS – Joseph Bierbaum (xxx) reported that the team members had initially planned a fair that highlighted all careers in arts but that the pandemic has made them postpone the planning. Currently team members are regrouping and have tentatively planned for a month-long virtual experience in March (Women's History Month) that could include contributions and programs by colleges and universities, museums and schools where art is profiled from all age groups – K-12 through to established artists.

CODING CHALLENGE/TECH CHAMPIONS – Norm Sondheimer reported out that the 2021 Lt. Governor's Coding Challenge has been developed and an implementation strategy is currently being worked on. It will be a more complete challenge that offers students the ability to go further with their concepts if they choose to do so. The team plans to offer it for next semester in January 2021. He added that the 2020 State of Computer Science was just released and CT has received some positive publicity. 2/3 of schools offer computer science curriculum – need to continue to work on diversity of access and participation. Welcomed anyone who would like to join the team to do so.

INFORMATION HUB – Eric Smith (DOT) reported out that the team has met recently and Ralph Z. did a presentation on his model for STEM resources – STEM Map. The framework is already there where a person is able to log into the site to learn about resources. Individuals 13 and older can create an account – students, teachers and parents can utilize this type of site to view all STEM activity and programming in a designated area. STEM Map is currently being used by the city of Bridgeport for

resource mapping and for engaging women into STEM fields. There's been discussion about utilizing interns to collect, review and send in data for the Hub.

Million Women Mentors report – Carolyn Alessi who serves as Connecticut's State Chair of this national movement which was recently relaunched within the state. Million Women Mentors' Annual Summit is scheduled for October 27th – all are invited to attend. Registration for the event can be found on the website or reach out to Carolyn at Carolyn.alessi@trinityhealthofne.org. She added that the organization is also seeking nominations for its Trailblazers awards – these would be due by October 16th.

Additional comments –

Lynn Raicik, Associate Director of the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, introduced herself to the group and offered CCAT as a resource.

Erika Taylor, Wesleyan University, introduced herself and looks forward to working with the group.

Cherie Phoenix-Sharpe thanked all who were in attendance for their efforts on behalf of the Council of Women and Girls – specifically in Education and STEAM – and added that this is especially important now in the midst of a pandemic.

Director Larson welcomed both individuals to the subcommittee and then adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.