Governor's Council on Women and Girls
Education and STEAM Subcommittee
Virtual Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2021

Subcommittee Chairs opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Present at the February meeting were: Commissioner Magubane, Executive Director Larson, Janice Floyd, Noele Kidney, Jennifer Michalek, Peg Hackett, Pam Casiano, Melissa Hickey, Elizabeth Shapiro, Lindy Gold, Cherie Phoenix-Sharpe, Eric Smith, Carolyn Alessi, Elizabeth Durgin, Nana Amos, Tracy Ariel, Erika Taylor, Gwen Brantley, Abby Jewett, Lynn Raicik, Lyn Caliendo, Sabrina Tucker-Barrett, Kovacs, Kristin Violette, Norm Sondheimer, Anne Morris, Heather McDonald, Donna Maglio, Adrian Sylveen and Andrea Kovacs.

Subcommittee PowerPoint presentations were shared with the group:

Janice Floyd went through a review of subcommittee background and goals for newer members of the group.

Internship – Lynn Raicik of CCAT reported out that there's a lot of progress members have been meeting twice a month Power Half Hour on Thursdays. Using comprehensive guide that was developed under the leadership of Debra Goss and Rhona Free (USJ). Decided to establish some focus groups to review the guide. Employer, educator and intern. Fortunate to have an intern in the group who has been a great asset. Janice has established a google share drive to maintain information. Currently facilitating meetings to develop reports during January and February. Intern and employer reports will be completed by the American Association of University Women and also state agencies involved with the committee. March and April will be used to review recommendations. After the review, they'll agree as a group the toolkit content and then establish a timeline to produce the toolkit and report to the subcommittee.

Arts – Joe Bierbaum (Paier College) goal is normalizing careers in the arts and reinforcing that there are people who have a passion for art and turn that into a career – it's not just a hobby for manh. Celebrating Women and Girls in the Arts during the month of March (Women's History Month) – have created separate Facebook and Instagram pages to highlight artists (painters, designers, singers, dancers, photographers, authors, architects, instrumentalists, etc.) Currently collecting art now to fill up albums and interactive video content will be included also. February is "tell everybody about it month." Marketing to educators K-12 and have begun boosting posts – so far this has resulted in 1800 people being exposed.   Hoping by the end of February there will be significantly more people interacting with the event and at the end of March the group can report back how many artists and people they've connected with. Urged members of the subcommittee to follow Facebook.com/womenandgirlsinthearts and Instagram #womenandgirlsinthearts

Coding Challenge/Tech Champions – Noele Kidney (OHE) reviewed the goals of the Coding Challenge/Tech Champions group and detailed the 2020 Lt. Governor's Covid19 Computing Challenge – takeaways and lessons learned. Next she updated the group on the 2021 Lt. Governor's Computing Challenge – Coding for Good which was launched in January, has received financial support from AT&T, Google, Infosys Foundation USA and Microsoft, and was expanded to three leveled options – Concept, Prototype and Development. The group is currently in the process of recruiting mentors and judges.

Jen Michalek (SDE) added they hope to be opening the portals for admissions this month and that partners are still being added to the effort.

Information Hub – Noele Kidney (OHE) gave a brief review of the primary goals of the team, which were very ambitious, how they've evolved and been scaled down to make the project far more manageable. It was reported that the members of the team have been exploring utilizing a UCONN Graduate School of Public Policy intern to assist with their effort in building a platform for housing information related to computer science/technology learning in one place – a resource for students, parents and educators that can eventually be expanded to include other related resources if determined necessary.

The full meeting broke into the four groups for individualized discussion and reconvened at 2:11 p.m. to give brief summaries:

- Information Hub – going forward with pursuing engaging a grad intern with the proper qualifications to assist with the development of the hub and circulating internship responsibilities among the team members for edits.
- Coding Challenge/Tech Champions – continuing to move the challenge forward. Discussed the role of mentors (assist community organizations and assisting students) and brainstormed how to screen the mentors as it relates to safeguards for students.
- Arts – reviewed upcoming tasks. Discussed how to become more grassroots as far as content, gain more support for the month's events and plan to reach out to educators in mid-March to ask how they're utilizing the event in the classroom.
- Internship – two additional members in the committee who will add insight and feedback. Plan to send out a survey to past interns at CSCU system to get feedback on their experiences.

The next subcommittee meeting will be held on April 7, 2021. Meeting was adjourned at 1:19 p.m