



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

60 State Street, Wethersfield, CT 06161

<http://ct.gov/dmv>

### EDUCATION & STEAM MEETING

December 8, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting



**Attendees:** Janice Floyd, Matt Mervis, Carolyn Alessi, Katherine Grady, Eric Smith, Lynn Raicik, Melissa Hickey, Patrice Gans, Jennifer Quaye-Hudson, and Candace Freedenberg and other subcommittee and steering committee members

**I. Welcome** – Janice welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for their continued dedication on behalf of the chairs of the committee who were unable to attend today's meeting.

**II. Update from the Coding Challenge Group** – Matt explained that the coding team has updated the Lieutenant Governor's Computing Challenge: Coding For Good website. Matt says that the challenge should launch next month in January. The theme of the challenge is 'Coding for Good' and the goal is to reach out to communities which have been historically underrepresented in computer science. The program received a new fiscal sponsor and Infosys Foundation USA will renew their sponsorship this upcoming year. Matt explained that the team is going to include social media in their outreach efforts. One obstacle the team faced was setting up a Facebook account because Facebook requires the account to be linked to an individual's account. Katherine suggested contacting Facebook and Matt agreed.

**III. Update from the Opportunity Hub** – Eric reported that the hub's intern is working on the logos for the hub, connecting with important organizations including Connecticut Digital Service to create the website. To start they are hoping to build a website that lists the programs, activities, and events available in a town or region. Their goal is to create an interactive Google Map which allowed viewers to easily access those activities.

**IV. Update from the Internship Committee** – Lynn reported that the committee has a final draft of the 'Employer Internship Toolkit' and is hoping to get final approval by the end of January. The toolkit is STEAM focused and specifically focused on recruiting women and people of color into these intern positions. The team is ready to begin a pilot program where employers use the toolkit to manage their interns and that they may have an opportunity to launch said pilot program with college interns in the Summer of 2022. Carolyn commented that Trinity Health would like to be involved in the pilot program.

**V. Update from Office of the Arts Group** - Melissa explained that the group has recently reorganized and many of their members have changed, but that they are working with the Department of Education to promote the arts through FOX 61. The team has new people coming into the group and hopes new members will provide some new ideas.

**VI. Presentation from Million Women Mentors** – Carolyn presented some upcoming events:

- Stand Up for STEM Recognition – this is a recognition platform and award to recognize mentors in the STEM field as well as young role models. The goal is to recognize mentors during Women's History Month (March).
- Mentoring Down Workgroup – This group hopes to engage young girls in STEM and will be offering virtual webinars to give a glimpse into what programs are available on the week of 1/10. They also are working on connecting organizations and young girls hoping to go into STEM.

- Mentoring Up Advisory Group – The goal of this group is to help advance women in middle to upper level management into Executive and Board positions. The group is hosting a panel discussion on 1/27 to discuss this mission and will later pilot a program to build up soft skill sin women.

**VII. Presentation from the Steering Committee** – Patrice presented the objective of ‘Random Hacks of Kindness Junior’ to empower students to use technology to face the challenges in their communities. Mentors are paired with kids in 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade to introduce the kids to computer science and to design their own apps surrounding a certain challenge such as food insecurity and endangered animals.

Janice explained that the 2022 meeting schedule still need to be finalized, when they are finalized the meetings will be on the Governor’s website for the Governor’s council.

Janice thanked all attendees.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30