

Governor's Council on Women and Girls
Subcommittee on Education and STEAM
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 3:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting – Microsoft TEAMS

I. Welcome Remarks

Paul Lavoie, tri-chair of the Subcommittee on Education and STEAM, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. CT Women in Manufacturing Advisory Council Update

ElevateHER, is the Connecticut Women's Manufacturing Advisory Council, which provides advice and counsel to the Office of Manufacturing and the Chief Manufacturing Officer on how to help women grow and advance their careers in manufacturing. The council has two in-person meetings so far, during which they created three teams: Networking, Experience, and Development (NED). The teams meet monthly and report recommendations quarterly to the Office of Manufacturing. One of the recommendations by the Development Team is a launching of a podcast in July 2024, for women and by women, called the Manufacturing Shake Up. It will be a professional development podcast with episodes 15 to 20 minutes long. Slalom, a consulting company, is the sponsor of the meeting place for the council.

III. Million Women Mentor Update

The Million Women Mentor website is close to launch and will connect mentors and mentees across the state. It is in partnership with the CT Office of Manufacturing and part of the ElevateHER Initiative.

Additionally, Million Women Mentors will be partnering with the CT Science Center for the Million Women Mentoring Day in Fall 2024. They require 75 mentors to support middle and high school girls.

Paul also provided a review of the events Million Women Mentor hosted during Spring 2024:

- February 29th, 2024 - Pathways to STEM Event

This event was hosted for high school students by the Connecticut Science Center and the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, as a great opportunity for parents and kids to learn about building careers in manufacturing.

- March 2nd - STEM goes RED

80 high school female students participated in classes ranging from nanotechnology to neuroscience. The event was hosted by the American Heart Association, Southern Connecticut State University and Yale New Haven Health.

- April 9th – 3rd Annual Stand Up for STEM Awards

Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz was the Million Women Mentor Honorary Chair of the 2024 Stand Up for STEM Mentorship Awards. It was held in New Haven at Southern Connecticut State University and honored the following awardees:

- STEM Mentor Award—Elizabeth Waller Peterson
 - Next Generation Role Model Award – Doorva Garg, Farmington High School
 - Youth in Action Award – Matilida Ryder, Hamden High School
 - Corporate Award – Girl Scouts of America
 - Male Ally Award – Ron Utterbeck, Chief Information Officer at Eversource
- April 15th – National Center on Women in Technology

The National Center for Women and Technologies Aspiration and Computing Awards was hosted at the Travelers Headquarters in Hartford. The program encourages young women, grades 9 through 12, to pursue their passion and to apply for awards based on their interests for technology and computing, leadership ability, and plans for the future.

Although Connecticut has 1% of the total U.S. population, CT female students won over 5% of the National Center for Women in Technology Awards in 2024.

IV. 2024 Lt. Governor’s Computing Challenge Update

The Lt. Governor’s Computing Challenge had 555 submissions, up from 218 in 2023. The Werth Institute is reviewing all submissions and will be deciding on top submissions for each grade band. So far, the prototype and development submissions have been reviewed and tiered, and the top tiers have gone to review, which will be finalized May 17th. The recognition event will be June 4th, 2024.

V. Upcoming Education and STEAM Subcommittee Meetings

- Wednesday, August 21st, 2024, 3:00pm
- Wednesday, November 13th, 2024 3:00pm

VI. Adjourn

Paul Lavoie adjourned the meeting.