Southeast Region STEM Advisory Board

May, 15 2025, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting: https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/95666358933

One tap mobile

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	Welcome and Introductions: Matt announced Becky has been accepted into a program at the Smithsonian this summer; she will not make the meeting. Ann Gritzner is joining us to discuss Externships for summer. SE Hub hosted An Evening with FIRST last night; about 50 people showed up to network and learn about starting teams. Goal was to build some tighter relationships. We have our festival at Collins coming up on July 17, from 9:00 to 2:00. We have expanded the festival this year by an hour due to past interest and attendance. **Present:** Trina Weiland, Matt Stier, Ann Gritzner, Jenna Stevens, Dan D'Alessandro, Jacob Cummer	**Matt**
	SE STEM Hub Updates ● Scale-Up: Currently getting PD sessions scheduled for this summer. Matt invites board members to come see training in action. ● Budget Updates (end of current year and next year's projection): Fiscal year is looking pretty good; Matt is running final numbers now. ● Summer Events: Will be setting up Extern visits; board members invited to join us on any of those.	**Matt**
	STEM Central Operations Updates ● Summer Teacher Externships: Ann Gritzner reports we have placed 72 Externs across the state, 20 of which are in our region. Two asks from Ann: Abundance of teachers in Iowa CIty and Cedar Rapids, and we need hosts. Six teachers in the CR/IC area need placements at this time. Repeat hosts are set up, in addition to a few new sites in and around Cedar Rapids and Iowa City. Also, an Extern who was placed at Bayer had to back out, so we are looking for a teacher to fill that placement. Ann is looking for contacts in the region. Matt mentions BioNeos as a possible host site to check in with. Matt also mentions the Office of the State Archeologist as a possible host site. Jenna Stevens mentions ADM as a possible host site; Ann invites ideas for a	**Central Ops Rep**

	contact person. Trina reports she can ask for help within Kirkwood for contacts with various manufacturing partners. Dan mentions Innovative Software Engineering as a place to reach out to; site has previously expressed interest in having Externs. Onboarding meetings are under way. ● Other news from Ann: STEM BEST is wrapping up the season and gearing up for STEMposium, which is in Boone in June. STEM BEST is having the Explore program this summer as well. The Youth Advisory Board is accepting applications through 5:00 p.m. today; looking to get these members more involved moving forward. STEM Day at the Fair is August 17; big footprint on main concourse, as in years past. Matt adds that there is also a main-stage act and other activities. Currently inviting exhibitors; ideas welcome. Dan asks which kinds of exhibitors are sought; Ann mentions it is sort of a mini STEM festival, so hands-on, engaging activities are welcome. Also always looking for volunteers if anyone is interested in joining that day. Dan adds that there are strong robotics clubs in the Quad CIties that enjoy getting out and exhibiting; Dan will pass along information. October 17 is the tentative date for this year's summit in Des Moines, at the Iowa Events Center. Ann invites outreach if she can be of any help to the region.	
	SE STEM Advisory Board Member Updates ● Current Board and Terms: Our boards will be moving out of Boards and Commissions; this might help us get some open seats filled here in the region. Network team will be working on procedural aspects of this over the summer. Matt has a few people who have shown interest. Matt mentions wanting to expand the team and introduce some in-person meetings; invites members to offer ideas for where we might do these meetings/visits. Matt adds that conversations are underway with other regions to do some networking among the regional boards. Matt anticipates the first meeting for 2025-2026 to be in August. Trina asks whether different representation among members will remain a goal; Matt says yes, though some consolidation of those categories might occur. Matt adds that getting some community members and/or retired members onto the board. Matt hopes to have more precise details to add as the summer moves on. ● Member Announcements:	**Team**

	○ Dan: Three hands-on events for QCESC each year (Battle of Bridges, Trebuchet Egg Toss, and Cardboard Boat Regatta); Trebuchet is similar to FIRST, in that work is judged; Regatta is done in teams, where teams build boats out of cardboard. These three events comprise the QC Tech Challenge, where scores are added from all three events, with winner (individual) winning $1,000 scholarship. Student from Bettendorf was this year's winner. These events draw audiences and news media. These events are in the spring. ○ Trina: KICK Camp season at Kirkwood is under way. Local Boy Scouts do an Earth Day event each year. Great representation at this each year; will get information to share for our newsletter, social media, etc.	
	Summer Opportunities ● Externs: WIll let board know as opportunities to visit develop. ● Scale-Up Workshops: Will let board members know as opportunities to visit develop.	**Matt**
	Communications Updates: STEM Day at Collins will dominate comms for next couple months. Always looking for ideas of STEM happenings to highlight in newsletter, on social media etc.	**Jake**
	Next Meeting: August 2025	