

## Oregon Coast STEM Hub Leadership Council Meeting

March 19, 2020

Online due to COVID-19 restrictions

11am - 1:30pm

REMOTE ONLY USING ZOOM: <https://oregonstate.zoom.us/j/825927087>

Participant folder: <https://bit.ly/3aOVVaB>

**Attending:** Itchung Cheung\*, Dave Hansen\*, SueAnn Bottoms\*, Larry Boles\*\*, CJ Drake\*, Lisa Phipps\*, Lisa Blank ■, Cait Goodwin ■, Tracy Crews ■, Jaime Belanger

**Partial attendance:** Annie Donnelly, Kyle Stevens, Summer Matteson, Manuel Padilla, Melaney Dunne, Kristi Foster\* +/- or Alix Lee\*\*

(\*LC member \*\*alternate LC member ■ backbone staff)

### Welcome and Introductions

Guests: Jaime Belanger from South Slough NERR, Kyle Stevens and Annie Donnelly from Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board (SOWIB), Manuel Padilla from Oregon Solutions, Summer Matteson from Curry County Economic Development

### Approval of the notes from the last meeting

At the opening of the meeting, we did not have a quorum of LC members, so approval of last November 2019 meeting notes was postponed to an **online vote**. Please read the notes [here](#) and vote to approve y/n here: <https://forms.gle/86MiwwVhgXM6TYGe8>

### Oregon Community Foundation: STEM Regional Engagement Matching Grant

The RFP for the OCF grant is included in the handouts. OCSH has received funds for the technical assistance and planning phase, and is continuing to apply for subsequent phases. Manuel Padilla LC members through a discussion about this opportunity. Summer Matteson shared highlights of the community meeting held in Gold Beach that initiated the concept of a work-based learning proposal. Key Points to consider while preparing a plan:

- Be realistic about, demonstrate, and explain how our partnerships will provide **sustainability** to the project.
- Describe a **holistic** approach to the project. Do partners have a sense for how they are part of the pipeline and what the pipeline looks like? It is important for all to get on the same page. Don't just focus on action-oriented things, but take a step back at the beginning to get a common set of facts, common vision, and how each stakeholder is contributing.
- **Communication** mechanisms are important. How will our communications with youth and workforce differ; how will messages "land", especially with girls and minorities?
- How does this project address the concept of **diversity**? Curry is not racially diverse, but has economic disparity. Urban/rural divide and high ACEs scores (**ACEs**: Adverse Childhood Experiences). Harvard study [Pathways to Prosperity](#) brings 'hope' to the county as a pathway out of poverty.

Kyle Stevens and Annie Donnelly (SOWIB) explain what they are doing in Coos, Curry and Douglas Counties

- Pilot program provides non-college-bound youth with an “on ramp” to the world of work. SOWIB is using [Recruit Hippo](#) to proactively engage and track students who are not college-bound with career-connected local work experiences and opportunities. A “Youth Talent Advisor” visits south county high schools and meets with students to see if they have a plan for post-graduation, and works with them to connect their interests to existing opportunities. Another individual connects with businesses, going door-to-door to assess business needs, entry level requirements, and their willingness to take on interns. SOWIB sets up industry tours to help youth learn more about local businesses.
- Current goal is to work with all seniors across three counties (have met with 969 of 1900 students so far). Future goal is to continue with this project after this pilot year, and expand its reach.
- Prior to this pilot program, there were limited small grant-funded mechanisms for reaching out of school youth, and K-12 schools had primarily just the ASPIRE program which supports college-bound youth.

Scaling up

- Lisa proposes that this south counties project could serve as a model for the entire Oregon Coast region. LC members discussed how they are engaging HS youth in their organization/sector/region, and how this plan could address workforce connections in their areas.
- Annie points out that it can be difficult for students to find out about internships and other opportunities. Pay attention to diverse family structures and demographics.
- Group discusses critical ages to target. In addition to continuing a focus on HS students, research supports that engaging middle school students and even upper elementary school is important, before their ideas and self-understanding is set. For example, SueAnn describes iNVENT camps which specifically target MS grades.

Next Steps

Lisa will put together a proposal for LC to review. She will work with Manuel to create a stakeholder map, and will meet with Annie and Kyle to see who is at the table. Then approach Curry business leaders with a plan for meetings (connect either in person or virtual, depending on COVID-19)

If anyone has additional questions about the OCF RFP please contact Manuel.

## **BIO BREAK**

(Annie, Kyle, Summer, and Manuel leave the meeting)

## **Partner Sharing**

South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve - Jaime Belanger gave a brief presentation about South Slough NERR's structure, assets, and education programs. South Slough Reserve

is the only NERR in Oregon and has been a partner of the Oregon Coast STEM Hub since its creation in 2014.

MWEEs by the Sea - Cait Goodwin gave a brief presentation about the NOAA B-WET funded *MWEEs by the Sea* project, which this year is operated by Oregon Sea Grant in partnership with South Slough. The project has reached teachers and students from Astoria to Port Orford with teacher professional development and student experiences focused on watershed issues. This year's cohort focuses on 17 teachers in Douglas, Coos, and Curry counties.

Coquille Watershed Association - Melaney Dunne gave a brief overview of the Coos/Coquille Watershed Associations EE Program Expansion (see handout). The goal of the project is to "Develop and/or enhance community supported, place-based, STEAM programming on natural resources with k-12 students to increase scientific literacy, raise awareness about natural resources career opportunities, and promote concepts in watershed stewardship that respect our local economy, values, and ecosystems." They have conducted two needs assessments: 1) school admins and teachers, 2) local employers in natural resources. They are connecting partners on the south coast by convening a South Coast Environmental Education Summit and follow-up meetings. Their next steps are to identify a strategic plan to expand programming.

### **Hub Activities and Opportunities**

Lisa shared the Updates handout and walked through PD and student STEM experiences offered by the Oregon Coast STEM Hub in recent months. SueAnn discussed the status of summer iNVENT camps, which typically run in several coastal locations each year.

### **Next Meetings**

The group opts to continue with monthly 1 hour online LC meetings. Attendance is optional. The next such meeting will be held **April 21s, 10 - 11AM**.

Given the COVID-19 restrictions, our next quarterly in-person meeting in May will be converted into a 2 hour online meeting. **Attendance of all LC members is requested**, as a quorum is required for voting. The next Leadership Council meeting will be **May 7th, 8-10AM**.

### **Adjourn**

Stay safe out there, everyone.

-Respectfully submitted, C. Goodwin