

Central Coast STEM Collaboration General Meeting
February 13, 2012

Attendees:

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Welcome—Tanja Kehler

Welcome Collaborators!

Thank you Exploration Station for hosting the meeting.

Call for Note Taker and other assistants—Julie volunteered to take the minutes and distributed an attendance sign up sheet.

Opening Comments—Steve Kliwer

Overview of meeting—Connect, Update, Move Forward

The power of collaboration—Synergy of shared goals, ideas, events, resources, and new funding sources

Visibility and publicity—Enhances collaboration, participation, and funding

Inclusion—Inviting other stakeholders—Please join an existing working group

(listed below) or start a new one.

Your professional input and help is deeply valued.

Specifics

Fall Forum—is planned for October 2012 at Allen Hancock College, most likely on a Saturday to allow for parking. There is a room that holds approximately 120 people. This forum will include people from Santa Barbara County. Our previous forum in May 2010 was primarily for people from San Luis Obispo County.

Vision and Mission statements—Steve, Walt, Rita and Tanja raised their hands to volunteer to finalize the statements.

STEM calendar—online posting and subscribing—Steve is maintaining the CCSTEM website at “Endeavours.org/STEM”. Please submit events to him at Director@EndeavourInstitute.com and he will post them on the Events Calendar. Please subscribe to the calendar.

Newsletter—Please sign up to receive the online newsletter.

Question about non-profit status—Edmund stated that CCSTEM is non-profit, but does not have 501(c) 3 status. CCSTEM is part of an alliance of organizations including several non-profits with 5013(c) status.

Ways to Connect—Pop-up Announcements—limit to 1 minute each

We are all here for a common purpose!

You are among friends...

Introduce yourself

Share your offerings (what do you do?)

Define your needs (how can we help?)

Make a proposal (what can we do together?)

Team up (who's in?)

Walt Reil of PG&E and a board member of the Endeavour Institute has been in the nuclear powered electricity generation business for 36 years. He is also a NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador, giving presentations in our area. He announced the Mars Science Laboratory landing party, which is being planned for August 5th.

Luis Gonzalez of Cal Poly's Outward Bound Program has college students mentoring high school students. He will be taking his students to JPL and wants to take them on a tour of PG&E's Diablo Canyon Power Generating Station.

Peter Huber has a background in engineering and taught at Pepperdine. He now owns Dancing Deer Ranch/Farm in Templeton. It is the home of the Center for United Families, but also has space available at little to no cost for non-profits during the week. They have meeting space that can hold 100-140 people and large screens. It would also be made available to schools.

Laura Albers is the Program Director for the Center for Reuniting Families. She is a teacher focusing in outdoor education and science-based programs. Dancing Deer has an organic farm, chickens and uses solar power.

Dennis Young is a professional photographer who has special rates for non-profits.

Rita Delkeskamp—Director of Secondary Learning and Achievement, San Luis Coastal Unified School District. Our district has a newly formed committee focused on accelerated and specialized learning programs. We're at the beginning of talking about

project-based learning opportunities that are focused on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics). We would appreciate assistance/input from anyone who has engaged in similar projects. Instead of setting up magnet school, we're thinking we'd like to develop projects to replicate in our various schools.

Dawn Hinchman is president of the Lucia Mar School Board. The new tech high school has a project-based STEM focus. \$50,000 start up funds for Project Lead the Way professional development lab equipment. Wants to use an Allan Hancock trailer for enough Legos for use by 200 students. AAUW has a Tech Track science camp for 7th and 8th grade girls.

Paul Murphy of Allen Hancock College announced the next Friday Science Night will be held May 4th. A partnership with Endeavour Institute is producing College for Kids: in May—Rocketry for ages 8-11 and 12-15 and in June—Astronomy for ages 8-11 and 12-15. June—Weeklong Math and Engineering. Classes cost \$32 plus kit expenses.

Deborah Love of the Exploration Station mentioned their Computers for Youth Program, providing computers to low income families. They are partnering with the Dunes Center and Salmon Enhancement to deliver hands on, in-class science lessons to the Guadalupe School. This is a pilot program demonstrating the value of informal educators dubbed "The Science Link" They will share science activities at Children's Day. They are looking for weekend summer lab leaders.

Sarah Paddock of Central Coast Salmon Enhancement mentioned science programs on May 19th at their location in Arroyo Grande.

Mark Seiberlich of DSK Architects talked about architectural spaces for project-based learning.

George Pudlo of DSK Architects has a memo on what STEM means on the website. He requests we read it and respond with comments and questions.

Greg Gracia of Nipomo High School reported STAR testing is going away. Science curriculum will be absorbed into the English language teaching. He wants to start a non-profit robotics program that provides space for tournaments and practice fields.

John Keller of Cal Poly's SESAME teacher education program is working on providing course credit to Cal Poly students who are volunteering in out-of-school programs. He mentioned climate change, a Santa Maria science center having summer time activities. He introduced Dr. Detweiler of Cal Poly's School of Education and said something about partnerships with LMUSD.

Linda Wingert of the YMCA thanked John for his efforts getting credit for college students. The YMCA is serving 1,000 kids countywide. She needs guest speakers for after-school programs.

Delia Horwitz of Collaboration Soup mentioned the environmental education curriculum the Teresa Lees of SLOCOE has for free. Celeste Royer at Rancho El Chorro was awarded \$20,000 for this program. I offer facilitation services at discounted rates.

Judy Guarnera Kliever, a writer, suggested news articles on the topic of "how you use STEM education" to identify careers for children.

Tanja Kehler is arranging a summer expo event poolside at the SLO Elks Lodge (1500 members, many families with school age children) to benefit the E Station and

showcase organizations offering summer science programs and events. She invites groups to participate and promote themselves and sign people up for their programs. The ES also has an interest in expanding its exhibit development program to include scientific advisers as well as business, community members and college science, engineering and art students

Edmund Burke of the Endeavour Institute provides middle and high school courses.

Working Group Updates—brief reports limited to 2 minutes

Each workgroup leader will share the cool things their group is doing, what they need, and invitation for others to join.

Advisory Council—Patti Garrett—the group has been working on the grant application to CSLNet.

Coordinating Committee—John Keller—we are a member of CSLNet! We will need to send representatives to the March 13th and 14th CSLNet meeting in Oakland. He mentioned that the President of the United States has formed a Council of Science and Technology Specialists and has a goal of 1 million science graduates and 100,000 science and math teachers in 10 years. CSLNet is supporting a statewide initiative to provide RFP—out-of-school time funds. Our \$50,000 planning grant from CSLNet is to cover 10 months in which we start up and generate funds. The grant will cover the costs of a coordinator from SLO County, a grant writer, a website coordinator and mini-grants for our area. (This is in addition to the efforts and approximate \$220,000 value of in-kind volunteers.) We need more business buy in and support from both counties. (Dennis Young suggested getting back in contact with Soft Tec.) Endeavor Institute will be the funding source providing accounting and reporting responsibilities with direction from the Advisory Committee (whose meetings are open to all). Jane Connelly of Santa Barbara was planning to attend this meeting, but was prevented by a personal event. She did go to the San Diego CSLNet event with John. Santa Barbara will be providing an in-kind coordinator. The proposed start date for the 10-month grant is August 1, 2012.

The group gave a thumbs up vote to go forward with submitting our grant proposal at the March CSLNet meeting. John mentioned that other area members of the organization have asked for advice in preparing their grant proposals.

Communications—Tanja Kehler—the group has moved to simplify web design in order to deliver a finished website soon.

STEM-in-the-Classroom—Anne Marie Bergen—not present.

Out-of-School-Time—Linda Wingert mentioned Balloon Fest, Hattie is planning a fund-raiser, SLO scientist training for YMCA instructors for project-based instruction, thanks to John for working on getting course credit for internships, Linda Pierce—Legos at Harlow on May 19th, needs resources—science kits and needs community connections and presentations. Everyone is invited to attend their next meeting on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

STEM Advocacy—Walt Reil reported for Brad Schultz that a letter has gone out to our government representatives requesting their support of STEM education.

Fund Raising—Edmund Burke—a meeting is scheduled for 2/29 or 3/29 at the Santa Maria Lab. His goal is to raise \$500,000 to match the \$50,000 CSLNet start up

grant. He will attend the Santa Barbara Partners for Excellence conference at Fess Parker's Doubletree Resort. NSG Grants need to come from colleges. Patti Garrett has hired Wendy Wendt as a grant writer. A light dinner will be served at the next meeting to be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Some attendees will be Dr. Jane Lehr, Dawn Hinchman, Tanja Kehler and Paul Murphy.

STEM Events—Dawn Hinchman—Linda Pierce at Harlow got a Lego grant. She will talk with Paul Murphy about using an empty Allen Hancock trailer to make their use mobile. Is talking with Jim Gentalucci of Cal Poly about project-based learning experience.

STEM Educator Focus—Steve Kliewer—is contacting science educators to find how who to get them together to discover what they need and what equipment or supplies would they use? Also, what would get them to participate in professional development? (He is aware that funding is a problem.)

Group reports and signup sheets were posted and updated by attendees.

Moving Forward

DSK Architects: George Pudlo and Mark Seiberlich—spoke about Space to Teach STEM and Project Based Learning. Christopher Giese of Gilbane Co., who is building the new Science Building at Cal Poly, was introduced.

Hosting our next General Meeting—Greg Gracia of Nipomo High School and Peter Huber of Dancing Deer Ranch both indicated they would be willing to host the May General Meeting.

Working Groups Breakout—Steve suggested attendees join existing groups to share contacts and objectives and/or form new groups for those with shared objectives. Steve will update group names, objectives, and contacts as needed and will post group meetings on the STEM calendar.

Closing Discussion—please think about:

What was accomplished tonight?

What benefit did you gain from participating?

What can you take away and use immediately?

What made this meeting work for you?

What might we do differently next time?

The meeting ended with time to mingle and connect.

Julie Reil