

**Central Coast STEM Education Collaborative
General Meeting
Dancing Deer Farm, Templeton, CA
May 9, 2012**

Laura Albers, Education Director at Dancing Deer, served as our meeting facilitator and introduced us to the mission of Dancing Deer Farm. It is made available free during the week to non-profit groups and for education. Rita and Julie volunteered to take notes and Robin served as timekeeper.

I. New member highlight: Carolyn Skinder of Coastal Discovery Center, a marine biologist who works for NOAA, provided an overview of her work on the sanctuary that extends from Cambria to San Francisco. She works in the education division, with 30 volunteers, at the learning center in San Simeon. She's interested in working with schools/teachers.

II. Everyone introduced themselves.

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III. Reports and brief Q&A/Discussion

Organizational Developments—Advisory Committee (John Keller) – We received a \$50,000 planning grant from CSLNet. The grant will begin June 1st and end March 31, 2013. This funding will be used to support the coordination and structure of our Collaborative and also to provide about \$7-8,000 in mini-grants. Accomplishments: the grant was publicized via four press releases; collaboration and conferencing has begun with our Santa Barbara partners; we are drafting a job description for our CCSTEM Coordinator; we are working on professional development; work continues on STEM events; there are networking meetings to build relationships and partnerships; we are working to provide resources for students; we are publicizing STEM and STEM advocacy; we are also drafting an organizational chart for our Collaborative; and later in the meeting, two Cal Poly students will present their efforts to help us to develop our organization's website and talk about using social media. Advisory Committee meetings are held monthly. The next meeting is on June 13th, details can be found on the ccstem.org website calendar. More committee members are needed to support projects.

Working Group Updates:

A. Annual Forum Planning (Suzanne Oliver, representing UCSB Dean Jane Conoley) – the forum is to be held at UCSB, on Friday, October 12th. She is forming a planning committee: Michele Magnuson of Partners in Education, Susan Salcido of Santa Barbara County Education Office, Molly Walker representing Philanthropic via the Santa Barbara Foundation and Peggy Luchenco (higher education), whose sister, Jane Luchenco, has been asked to be the keynote speaker. Other suggested areas needing representation are government, non-profits and principals and teachers. A sign-up sheet is available for San Luis Obispo folks to volunteer to work on this planning committee. She extended Jane's invitation to attend the Santa Barbara P-20 STEM Council meeting on May 23rd, 9:15 am – 10:15 am, at Goleta Union School District Office. Dr. Helen Quinn will be speaking. Suzanne also shared copies of the Santa Barbara County P-20 STEM Council Benchmarks and Strategies document.

B. Advocacy Group (Brad Schultz) – This group reviews STEM legislation and works to further the mission of STEM education through advocacy. They recently sent a letter to Congress to recommend that the reauthorization of NCLB/ESEA include STEM content areas in addition to English/Language Arts and Math. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan responded via a letter acknowledging our group's work and offering grant information. This group is also investigating possible affiliation with the national STEM Education Coalition. Brad also announced that on May 11th the Next Generation Science Standards will be unveiled (at www.nextgenscience.org) so the public can provide input on

the survey that will be available on June 1st. A Framework for K-12 Science Education has been published and is now available; a free PDF version is available at www.nap.edu. The California State of Education is scheduled to adopt the standards next year. More committee members are needed, and we were reminded we are all advocates for CCSTEM.

C. Fund-Raising Committee (Edmund Burke) – Edmund was not present, so John Keller shared an update. Also included in our grant was funding for a grant writer, Wendy Wendt at SLOCOE. Fundraising involves seeking funds to sustain our Collaborative, but even more important we are seeking grants to support a variety of STEM activities and events, such as an Upward Bound STEM, and the Department of the Navy's STEM in Our Community funding. Three potential fund-raising contacts were mentioned. This group welcomes more support and meets monthly in Santa Maria.

D. Communications Group (Tanja, Lindsey, Brandon) – This group has met recently, with the mission of developing a new website, which will be the public face of our Collaborative. Lindsey and Brandon have CCSTEM as one of their clients in their Cal Poly Journalism Public Relations class and came to share an overview of their work for us. They showed us several of the website pages they have developed thus far; this is a result of about 10 days work. When the website is finished in about three weeks, our group will consider the adoption of this website. Brandon asked for 6-10 volunteers to beta test the website. They have developed a forum that provides for communication for the working groups and for public discussion. They will also set up Facebook (CentralCoastSTEM) and Twitter accounts. They will provide training and a user's manual, plus a communications policy. This group needs additional supporters.

E. Out-of-School Time Education Group (OST) (Linda Wingert) – This group has been meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. at the YMCA Beach House—new members are welcome. Linda shared a written overview of the group's work (members, objectives, needs, updates). The handout included a picture of a recent event where Cal Poly Learn-By-Doing-Lab student volunteers and Engineering Professor Dr. John Oliver have begun implementation of STEM labs to be delivered at Grover Beach and Fairgrove Elementary after school programs. The first lesson was on Turbines. Wendy noted that CSLNet has a \$750 million OST initiative. Linda mentioned the LEGO Competition on Saturday, May 12th at Harloe Elementary School in AG from 9 to noon. Tanja presented to OST a proposal for the Decentralized School Model (copies of which were made available).

F. Events Group (Tanja Kehler) – This group has met only on an as-needed basis. Tanja shared that she is organizing an event at the Elks. It is called Summer of Science Kick-off Pool Party where different organizations can share information about summer activities in which young people can be involved

during the summer. Tanja also shared ideas for other possible events, such as a Kinetics Race and an annual Science Fest.

G. Educator Focus Group (Steve Kliewer) – Steve reminded us that we can get information about events at our temporary “ccstem.com” website. Steve shared information about the Balloon Fest event that involved about 120 students who worked with mentors during the year to organize their learning, which culminated in this event. He has been working on focus groups of teachers to find out what it takes to get them interested learn about project-based learning. Those interested in this work are invited to attend Tuesday’s meeting.

IV. Recap of Meeting/Closing Comments

The next general meeting will be in mid-August. Suggestions were shared for possible locations for the meeting, such as the Cal Poly Learn-by-Doing lab (parking is free in the summer) and PG&E’s Energy Education Center.

V. Attendees broke into informal groups for open discussion and to add their names to the various working group sign up sheets.