SC STEM Hub Meeting Minutes

Date: March 11, 2020

Location: Iowa Department of the Blind

Present: Derry, Myerholtz, Haage, Garrett, Pargmann, Williams  
Absent: Cox, Eysink, Ford, Hanson, Holmen, Mohr, Gomez, McCarthy, Payne

1. Welcome by Derry
2. Introduction to Iowa Department of the Blind (IDOB) by Emily Wharton.
3. The IDOB provides many services for visually impaired Iowans of all ages, including independent living services, adaptive technology, Braille print materials, and more.
4. Ashley West, Business Engagement Specialist, can help organizations and businesses work with visually impaired employees. All services are free. Contact her at [ashley.west@blind.state.ia.us](mailto:ashley.west@blind.state.ia.us) / 515-802-4651.
5. Three factors determine the success of a successfully employed blind: the ability to read/write Brille, educational attainment and peer mentorship for support.
6. Assume it can be done (accommodations, job skills, adaptive technology).
7. Involve visually impaired kids in STEM and believe in their ability and knowledge base for future jobs.
8. If you have questions or need supports, contact Wharton at (515) 802-7313 or email [Emily.Wharton@blind.state.us](mailto:Emily.Wharton@blind.state.us).
9. Evaluation Report Overview
10. Encouraged that correlation between participation and math, reading, sci scores
11. Added the differential between white and nonwhite; non-white students in science; white students still scoring better, so we still have work to do there
12. Scale-Up Priorities
13. Application stats sent via materials
14. VEX materials are in demand
15. 100 applications 14, 018 if we award all; 242 educators.
16. New budget: &539,000 total
17. STEM festivals
18. Budget discussion
19. Overview of planned events: Chariton, DMACC, Lunch and Learn, etc.
20. STEM BEST Update
21. Applications are up.
22. Hunt provided update.
23. Mega Meeting Take-Aways
24. Use lending library to introduce people to our products
25. Communication via social media is growing in importance
26. Advertise in short bursts
27. Create a simple guide for Scale-Up/STEM BEST
28. Create shorter video bites of highlights from webinars
29. Create shorter video of sharing projects
30. Please plan to attend the April 14 STEM Summit