

## August 28, 2025 -- SC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** August 28, 2025; noon – 1PM

**Location:** Virtual

**Present:** Derry, Wise, Schultz, Bruck, Murphy, Emerson, Luppert, Schellhorn, Neubauer, Lewis, Byicza, Cortz, Corrigan, Bozer

**Absent:** Cox, Mathrubutham

- I. Summer updates. The Hub participated in the following:
  - A. Table at Cornbread/Corn Bred Fest
  - B. Hosted STEAM on the Ridge at Oakridge
  - C. Coordinated summer Scale-Up training.
- II. Justin Lewis, DOE Bureau Chief shared a state-level summer report
  - A. It was a record year for the Externship Program with 74 hosts and 86 externs.
  - B. Iowa STEM hosted a summer exploratory opportunity with STEM BEST; will share details at a later date.
  - C. STEM Day at the Fair – 90,000 people came through the gates. It was very warm.
  - D. Governor Reynolds signed Executive Order 14, which outlines future of STEM.
    1. Overview of “whereas” statements
    2. Size revamp of Governor’s Advisory Council.
    3. Summit work with a focus of connecting AI to education and community needs. Goal: come up with a plan to connect students in a meaningful way.
    4. In other summit news, they’ve revamped the schedule, added strategic breakouts, planned a plated lunch, and acquired the amazing keynote: Jay Flores.
    5. New DOE/STEM team member: Michelle Meyers, the state computer science director is now reporting through STEM. Michelle Meyers.
    6. Board appointments are continuing.
- III. Derry discussed the 2025 calendar, highlighting important dates
  - A. Oct. 17 STEM Summit – at close of day, we’ll have a quick meeting.
  - B. SC Hub STEM Festivals to date
    1. April 2—DMACC Future Fest for Fifth Grade
    2. Oct. 25 All-Southern Iowa STEM Fest
  - C. Feb. 18, 2026 -- STEM Day at Cap; takes place of the February meeting.
  - D. SC Regional Board Meetings – plans to date
    1. September 24, at Science Center of Iowa.
      - a. Learn about AI in education from SCI and SC educators. S
      - b. Conversation focus: What are the things we want to be our guiding values of how we use AI?
    2. November 7, Winterset School District
      - a. Lends access to a STEM Teacher Awardee, BEST program, and 2 externs.
      - b. Discussion will focus on impact and integration.
    3. January 9, Virtual. Focus on the new version of Scale-Up
    4. March 27, Southeast Polk School District to see Scale-Up programs in action.

- IV. STEM Teacher Award is open now – Oct. 22. We have print and electronic materials to distribute to encourage folks to nominate.
- V. STEM BEST opens Sept 3 – and we have print and electronic materials to distribute.
- VI. The Scale-Up Provider RFP is delayed until mid-September due to changes. This year, we can extend the award opportunity for 3 years instead of just one.
- VII. Iowa STEM is seeking application evaluators for STEM BEST, Teacher Award, and Scale-Up Providers.
- VIII. Derry will send calendar invites and spreadsheets with details on dates and opportunities.
- IX. STEM Youth Ambassador Group update.
  - A. Lots of enthusiasm about participating in the STEM Summit with 17 students volunteering.
  - B. Derry shared list of topics most important to the youth group.
  - C. Derry is seeking ideas on how to keep them engaged. Ideas include:
    - 1. Create social media posts of SC board members: 1. How to use STEM in your job 2. How it makes the world better 3. Share photo.
    - 2. Create social media posts on how STEM impacts Iowa, helps get kids ready for college and their future.
    - 3. Collect ideas to help them get read for work: job shadows, internships, etc.
    - 4. Create a list of outreach websites and podcasts.
  - 5. Demonstrate how Iowa has an impact on global STEM issues
  - 6. Question: How can we provide students more opportunities to get into health care? Derry met with Jeanine McDonald (Public Health Workforce with state of IA)
  - 7. Share existing information, like Mission Employable Podcast: <https://workforce.iowa.gov/news/podcast>
  - 8. Question: Internships are great at a college level, but do we need more emphasis at high school? What does this mean for the employers.
  - 9. Question: If we create this resource, how would we share it out? Suggestion: start with the Youth Ambassador Group.
  - 10. Question: Can we move into platforms more relevant to the K-12 platform? FB and Twitter are irrelevant to young people. Answer: No, the SC Hub is mandated to only have FB and Tw, but the youth group was given an exception for Instagram
- X. Sept. 24 at Science Center of Iowa. Derry will send dates and invites.