

Finger Lakes STEM Hub

The Catalyst for STEM Collaborations in the Finger Lakes



Monthly Roundtable Bulletin

The Clearinghouse for STEM Resources, News,
Events, and Collaborations

December 2022

Our Roundtable of Network Members allows participants to stay abreast of STEM activities, share presentations, engage in discussions, provide links to resources, and collaborate on various Hub and non-Hub directed activities. It typically meets the second Friday of each month. STEM resources, events, collaborations, and links to them are identified and distributed to the entire Hub network through this Bulletin. * Membership in the network is free.

Interested in learning more about the network? Please see the About Us page on our [website](#).

If you are interested in joining our network, please contact Executive Director, Joseph Marinelli at flxstem.director@gmail.com or 585-704-4659.



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**The Finger Lakes STEM Hub is sending this bulletin to fulfill its mission to make its members aware of resources and programs that promote or support STEM education. The Finger Lakes STEM Hub has not vetted, nor does it endorse, any particular product or service mentioned.*

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DECEMBER 2022 ROUNDTABLE BULLETIN

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- a. Reminder to complete Hub Network Resource Directory information
 - i. [Link to add yourself to directory](#)
 - ii. This directory is for Hub network member use only. If you would like a copy, please send an email to flxstem.info@gmail.com
- b. Present (all virtual): Joe Marinelli (FLX STEM Hub), Tammy Bonisteel (FLX STEM Hub), Taurean Uthman (Urban League of Rochester), Kaeti Stoss (RIT), Gretchen Anthony (Teaching Artists ROC), Sharon Sweeney (C&S Companies), Michael DuPre (Science Exploration Days), Angela Olkey (GST BOCES), Betsy Ukeritis (NYS DEC), Christopher Harris (GV BOCES), Dan Schneiderman (RMSC Solar Eclipse, Rochester Maker Faire), Kellie Gauvin (FLCC), Marion French (WXXI), Mike Wischnowski (St. John Fisher), Pete Maslyn (Ontario County Farm Bureau), Robert Putney (Impact Earth), Steven Montemarano (BOCES 4 Science), Jim VanKouwenberg (Optimax), Benjamin Link (GST BOCES)

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Met with the Executive Advisory Committee to gain input on the development of a Strategic Plan Survey, which will be this month's featured topic presentation.

3. STEM RELATED TOPIC PRESENTATION

- FLX Strategic Plan- The current 5-year strategic plan expires this month. An initial step in establishing a new one is to give all network/google group members an opportunity to review the current plan and offer comments and suggestions. A draft was made, and revisions were made to the survey following the December Roundtable feedback.
- To review the current strategic plan, click here: <https://www.flxstem.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Strategic-Plan-Color-2019.pdf>

- We invite ALL network members to complete the survey, which is now open. Please check your messages from the FLX STEM Hub Google group to find the survey link. DEADLINE Friday, Jan. 13

4. FLX STEM HUB'S WEBSITE REVIEW

- A new website for the Hub has been developed. We are interested in Roundtable participants reaction to it with any suggestions or comments. A recent change was the calendar format. All network members can add their own events to the calendar. They will go into a moderated queue, so will not show up immediately, but will show up once approved by STEM Hub staff.
www.flxstem.org
- We invite all network members to review the website, and send any suggested changes to flxstem.info@gmail.com
- Please add your events to our calendar!

5. ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANTS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

- a. Steven Montemarano (BOCES 4 Science)
 - Still working on the move to the new science kits' production facility. Will be moving offices in the new year.
 - New assessment format coming for the state science test in 2024. Working on investigations for this change.
 - Getting new materials into PD for teachers.
- b. Dan Schneiderman (RMSC Solar Eclipse, Rochester Maker Faire)
 - <https://rmsc.org/events/stars-with-santa/>
 - <https://rmsc.org/events/holiday-laser/>
 - [Meet the composers eclipse concert](#)
 - [Hang out and Nerd Out](#)
 - We had 1500 students at the Student STEAM Fest this year
 - RMSC will do several New Years events for kids with a noon midnight, and possibly a moon drop instead of a ball drop.
 - 486 days to the total solar eclipse
 - Massive order of 500,000 eclipse glasses being ordered. System for purchase being set up. Working on group discounts.

- Please work with your school districts to make sure they do not pick the Eclipse date for State testing.
- First Robotics kick off will be taking place the first Saturday of January.
- First Lego League competitions are still ongoing.
- [Maker Fair](#) was very successful this year. 1,500 students on the student day, which was a good turn out. All Buffalo schools cancelled coming due to the weather, which affected the numbers a bit.
- 2,000 in attendance on Saturday.
- Next year is the 10th anniversary.
- Dan will be taking a step back due to Eclipse work but will still be involved and will also be presenting.

c. Christopher Harris (GV BOCES)

- Working with [IMLS Federal Grant](#)
- Ebook coming next week that talks about all the different roles of school librarians, including makerspace and STEM programs.
- Working with a number of districts with the [Giant Software Farming Simulator game](#). Mobile lab with 6 IMAX that are being taken out to districts to provide esports opportunities and other activities for students.
- Amazing growth for CTE in region. More technology teachers, increased focus on agriculture and manufacturing.

d. Gretchen Anthony (Teaching Artists ROC)

- Winter season is slower
- Presentations being held for librarians and school principal associations
- If you have a summer camp program and would like a teaching artist to do STEM related programming, let Gretchen know. They have a big grant application coming up on January 16th to fund artists.

e. Sharon Sweeney (C&S Companies)

- STEM events happening in offices, details will be shared as they develop.
- Terry Hopkins from C&S who is also a member of our Hub Executive Advisory Committee is the recipient of a STEM award from the Y in CNY for her work with Women in STEM.

f. Betsy Ukeritis (NYS DEC)

- Green Careers series has fallen off due to work schedule. Looking to get this group back together to move this program forward.
- Lots of changes due to Bureau Chief resigning and succession plan unclear.
- Will be on the NYS multi-agency state task force for the 2024 eclipse. Will be headed to Albany next week to meet with this group.
- State Parks and education staff will also be creating programming for staff to train them how to safely view an eclipse and creating resources and events for parks and DEC facilities.

g. Angela Olkey (GST BOCES)

- Brought college Ben Link with her this month
- [NYSCATE Conference](#) in Rochester, sent a class of students up for the STEAM fest through their exploratory enrichment program.
- Materials, kits and investigations are all being worked on and updated.
- Trainings coming for teachers in January and February.
- Looking at alternative curriculums.

h. Benjamin Link (GST BOCES)

- He works as an embedded science coach on the teacher side of things, working with 5 local school districts directly to help them implement science programs.
- Member of statewide science framework group on the BOCES side
- STANYS Director of Elementary Science
- Recently appointed to the Department of Ed science content advisory panel.

i. Marion French (WXXI)

- Working on a giveaway for eclipse glasses, will be giving away 100-150,000 glasses for free.
- Grant applied for, will find out soon if they got it. National grant that will allow them to hire a full-time producer that will work on 3 segments per week aimed at teens, focusing on careers. Each station that gets selected will be assigned a sector to work on. WXXI applied for 3 possibilities: Manufacturing, Green Jobs and Healthcare. Will share more in the future if they get selected. If they do get the grant they will create a Teen council and business council to help guide these programs.

- Second year of a 4 year grant from US department of Ed in Early Childhood that works with the North-East quadrant of the city that works with organizations along with families using a curriculum that is a play and learn science. Parents help dictate how this is offered, such as in person or virtual.
- Working with City district on grant for early childhood programs.
- Other funding lets them bring some of these programs into the rural areas, this has created a lot of work, so they are hiring some new staff. Looking for part time bilingual staff to help out. Another full time position may be listed if funding is secured.
- [Rochester Youth Teen](#) Festival will be in August, applications are now open.

j. Michael DuPre (Science Exploration Days)

- [STANYS](#) Pub night was supposed to be held last week, but was rescheduled for January. Dan will be the featured presenter, talking about the Eclipse.

k. Jim VanKouwenberg (Optimax)

- Holiday party held at the RMSC went really well, great place for a large function.
- At the holiday party, shared a video of [NASA Dart mission](#), which was a rocket that impacted an asteroid. Optimax lenses were used for this project.
- Optimax is growing like crazy. 35,000 square foot expansion is underway and should be finished this spring.
- Interviews are ongoing for the [Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship program](#).
- MCC Optics department is looking for an apprenticeship coordinator to help set up registered apprenticeships in Precision Optics Manufacturing at optics companies across the country. If anyone knows someone with apprenticeship knowledge, please share jvank@optimaxsi.com
- MCC Optics program is exploding. They are looking for adjunct faculty to help support this.
- [Alexis Vogt](#) has done a great job expanding the program at MCC. Several suggestions for her to be a featured presenter.

- l. Pete Maslyn (Ontario County Farm Bureau),
 - [Fun on the Farm](#) activity in the fall went really well. 800 school kids on Friday from grades K-8. Saturday open house with tours was also very well attended, with about 300 attendees.
 - Collaboration with Gretchen of Artist ROC, who came out for the 2 days to give feedback.
 - Last month, Cornell University started a new [Digital Ag program](#). The Farm Bureau hosted Cornell to do an on-farm session, which was a 5 hour program held to give them an overview of robotic milkers, monitoring systems, GPS, crop technology, etc.
 - Students in the program are not only Ag students but also computer science majors and a few other majors, which gives diversity to the Ag program.
 - Arranged with Joe to speak with the Board of the Ontario County Farm Bureau to share information on the Hub. This was held a few weeks ago.

- m. Mike Wischnowski (St. John Fisher)
 - Co-PI on [NOYCE grant that provides scholarships](#) for students in science and math, especially those who want to serve in rural areas. This semester they have 7 NOYCE scholars who are currently doing field experiences in Red Jacket, Bloomfield and Pal-Mac. Room for more scholars.
 - This is the 3rd year of the grant, 2 years left.

- n. Robert Putney (Impact Earth)
 - Co-founder and CEO of [Impact Earth](#)
 - Provide environmental products and services
 - Residential food-scrap collection
 - Zero-waste living store at Eastview, second store being opened in 2023 in Brighton.

6. FLX STEM Hub Work Group Reports

- a. STEM Recognition Program (Carla Stough-Huffman)
 - no report made this month
- b. STEM Professional Learning (Steve Montemarano)
 - Committee meeting to follow today's Roundtable meeting.

c. Building the STEM Talent Pipeline (Bill Rotenberg)

- no report made this month, meeting will be held in January to get this committee back to work. If you are interested in joining this work group, please let Joe know.

d. Advocacy (Joe Marinelli)

- no report made this month

e. Regional Outreach (Joe Marinelli)

- no report made this month

f. FLX Website (Tammy Bonisteel)

- See website review notes above

7. Future Featured Presentations

- Please submit ideas for future meetings to flxstem.director@gmail.com

8. Next meeting

- a. Friday, January 13, 2022. 8 AM
- b. [Zoom link for meeting](#)