

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

January 2023

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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JANUARY 2023 ROUNDTABLE BULLETIN

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- a. Reminder to complete Hub Network Resource Directory information
 - [Link to add yourself to directory](#)
 - This directory is for Hub network member use only.
 - If you would like a copy of the directory, please contact flxstem.info@gmail.com
- b. Present (all virtual): Joe Marinelli (FLX STEM Hub), Tammy Bonisteel (FLX STEM Hub) , Betsy Ukeritis (NYS DEC), Dan Schneiderman (RMS Solar Eclipse, Rochester Maker Faire), Harold Clark (Terra Fairs), Jim VanKouwenberg (Optimax), Marion French (WXXI), Michael DuPre (Science Exploration Days), Sharon Sweeney (C&S Companies), Terry Hopkins (C&S Companies), Mike Wischnowski (St. John Fisher)

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. Strategic Plan Development Update
 - Survey draft was reviewed and updated in December
 - Survey was distributed 12/13/22
 - Today is deadline for responding. Over next few weeks, survey results will aid in the creation of a draft 2023 version that will be presented to Network Members.
- b. Recommendations for Future Roundtable Presentations
 - February we will present draft of new strategic plan.
 - March and forward looking for new presenters, if you have any suggestions, please submit to Joe.
 - Eclipse presentation will at some point this year.
 - RIT program: [Teaching STEM by playing with primates](#) may be a future presentation

c. NYS convening

- Will be held in Albany in April to convene the Empire State Consortium of ecosystems. Will be a professional development activity.
- Any network member should be able to attend.
- Two items will be working on between now and April:
 - Review the New York State Quality Rubric which assesses the quality of State programs. The Hub was quite involved with the creation of the original rubric. If you are interested in helping with this, please let Joe know.
 - Determining what the policy priorities for the NYS Consortium of Hubs should be that we can add advocate and work together on. The FLX Hub was recognized as being a catalyst for this process, with our [Policies and Practices Recommendations](#) that we published in 2021. Joe will be part of this work group.

d. SLECoP

- [STEM Learning Ecosystem Community of Practice](#) (SLECoP) is an International group of STEM ecosystems.
- Annual convening will be May 1-May 3 in Jacksonville, FL
- Joe will not be able to attend this year. If you are interested in attending to represent the FLX Hub, please contact Joe.

e. Executive Advisory Committee Updates

- Two new Executive Advisory Committee members have been added
- Danielle Lavelle – RMSC – representing Hub steward category
- Marion French – WXXI – representing community organization category
- [EAC members](#) and process for member selection is on our website.

3. STEM RELATED ORGANIZATION PRESENTATION

- a. Central New York Program to Inform Educators, Parents and Youth About STEM Careers
- b. Presenter: Terry Hopkins, Administrative Principal for C&S Companies

- c. The FLX STEM Hub has as one of its core commitments informing and inspiring educators, parents, and youth regarding pathways to readiness for 21st century STEM careers. Its mission is to be a catalyst for bringing together network members who in turn create opportunities in the Building of the STEM Talent Pool. This presentation is an opportunity to learn about the central NY program as we plan to initiate a Finger Lakes program.

4. STRATEGIC PLAN SURVEY

Survey is well underway and has had the deadline extended through January 13th. We took time at our Roundtable meeting to allow anyone who hasn't filled it out yet to complete it.

To date we have received only 16 responses to the strategic plan survey. It is essential for us to encourage and receive more responses. Roundtable members present were given time to complete the survey if they have not already done so.

5. ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

- a. Dan Schneiderman (RMSC Solar Eclipse, Rochester Maker Faire)
- Solar Eclipse is now officially next year! 451 days left
 - Working towards
 - [FIRST Robotics](#) competition this year
 - FIRST Finger Lakes Regional could use [volunteers](#)
 - Will be at [Winter Fest](#) at Mendon Ponds on Jan 29th. Other STEM orgs should be there as well
 - Schools and BOCES school calendars, they are trying to have the kids be off on 4/8/24 for the eclipse, progress is being made but decisions not made by districts yet.
 - Launching an Eclipse Ambassador program next year
 - Thanks to the Simon Foundation, they received a grant to bring in 50 organizations from the 9-county region that have nothing to do with science (barbers, restaurants, organizations, etc) and teach them how to talk about the eclipse. They will receive telescopes, models, patches, stickers, swag, banners, and \$1,000 to go out and talk about the eclipse and hand out glasses and posters and talk to their communities.

b. Harold Clark (Terra Fairs)

- If you know of any students who are doing projects for other competitions, first robotics, future cities, etc, any of those they can get double duty and use an existing project.
- Recruiting judges who can spend 5 hours at the RMSC on March 18th to talk to students and judge their projects.
- Working with the Rochester Engineering Society to provide activities, engineers and activities to the RMSC for Engineers week, which is the same week as break week.
- Looking for outreach activities, such as simple tabletop demonstrations or manipulative things that you have found that work well at engaging students in engineering short, 5-10 min type activities up to things that could take 30 minutes.

c. Michael DuPrey (Science Exploration Days)

- STANYS had to reschedule Dan's Eclipse presentation. New date is being chosen.

d. Jim VanKouwenberg (Optimax)

- Things are going well, hiring at a rampant pace.
- New addition is coming along. Just finished closing in the walls on the 35,000 sq. ft addition.
- Attended a dinner last night at East High, and enjoyed seeing all those students who come out of that program, They have been working with the program since it's inception in 2015

e. Betsy Ukeritis (NYS DEC)

- Statewide state agency task force has been developed for the eclipse that is slowly rolling out.
- Betsy is one of the leads for the Education Committee for that task force.
- DEC camps are looking for camp counselors and camp staff for this summer. All hands on deck doing some promotions and recruiting. It is one of the higher paying camp counselor positions since they also have civil service responsibilities for some of the job titles. 8 weeks residential positions.
- Will begin registering campers in April

f. Terry Hopkins (C&S Companies)

- Doing a presentation for BOCES coming up at the end of the month, that will be about school business partnership.
- Engineering Week will not only have students into a couple of shadow days, at different offices across the country, but will also be giving props for engineers and celebrating them that week.
- And then another. 2 other things that we're doing this spring.
- C&S architect is getting trained by through the YWCA in [Girls, Inc.](#) to be a mentor for their STEM programs, which is really exciting.
- Sponsoring and being very active is in Syracuse with the Girl Scouts and the community college with a program that will have [Colonel Eileen Collins](#) come in. Colonel Collins was the first female Space Commander.
- C&S's Syracuse office is on Col Eileen Collins Blvd in Syracuse, NY. She attended the naming ceremony and Terry's daughter gave Colonel Collins flowers at the event when she was only 4 years old. Hoping to do a reenactment picture of that day when she returns.
- All kinds of student groups will come in for this event, which is on a Saturday in April (details will be shared as they develop)
- She is local to our region. Her flight suit is at the [Finger Lakes Welcome Center](#).

g. Mike Wischnowski (St. John Fisher)

- Connected with Monroe 2 BOCES for their eclipse efforts.
- NOYCE scholars, college students who are teacher candidates, will be connecting and working with them.

h. Marion French (WXXI)

- [Teen Film Fest](#) is underway and applications are open until June. Students can submit an existing project, it does not have to be unique to this program.
- [NPR Student Podcast Challenge](#) is also underway for grades 5-12
- Working on a statewide project with all the New York State stations together in February to focus on the overdose epidemic, in the health area of STEM. This will be a whole week of programming the week of February 13-19. WXXI is the lead station and will be doing a live forum that'll be televised and also online.

- Working with the State government in Albany.
 - Lead-in screening called [Love In the Time of Fentanyl](#), which will be shown at the Little on January 30th.
- i. Carla (submitted via email)
- Summer Common Application program submissions due Monday, January 16th, but may be extended for one week.
 - February Summit set for February 21st at East High. RFP for presenters is out now. Looking for 75-minute sessions that provide opportunities for engaged, playful learning in ANY subject, including STEM. Last year, there were several offerings highlighting STEM through projects and play.

6. HUB NETWORK COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. STEM Recognition Program (Carla Stough-Huffman)

- Awaiting response from RMSC regarding potential dates (requested something either May 16th-18th or 23rd-25th, targeting a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday).
- Previous year submission date was mid-March
- We are on pace but need to lock in date. Carla will follow up with RMSC (Dan Klein)
- Would like membership to decide if this is competitive (using the old rubric for comparison and awarding specific prizes) or supportive (allowing groups to submit their projects with their own video/written response to some basic questions/prompts that identify learnings and receiving recognition for the interest, effort, etc.). I think it's worth considering, especially with so many new STEM Hub members.
- Once decision is made and date is secured, we will need lists of schools and programs across our region. RCSD and all city Charters are covered, as well as most city youth programs. Will need all members to share with their networks.
- Small committee to make meal selections, identify speaker (maybe an older youth/young adult?), create/update program, help with set-up and breakdown, etc.

b. STEM Professional Learning (Steve Montemarano)

- No updates at this time

c. Advocacy (Joe Marinelli)

- a. No updates at this time

- d. Regional Outreach (Joe Marinelli)
 - No updates at this time
- e. FLX Website (Tammy Bonisteel)
 - We ran into an issue with the calendar on the new website. Chris Harris has fixed it and installed a new calendar. Please submit any and all events that are STEM related that you would like included. Events go into a moderated queue, so they will not show up immediately.
- f. Building the STEM Talent Pipeline (Bill Rotenberg)
 - Committee came up with a proposal, which was shared at the beginning of the featured presentation today.
 - Proposal follows:

Building the STEM Talent Pool/Pipeline Committee Proposal

Goal: To create a Staff Development / Professional Learning Opportunity for 7-12 Educators

Focus Group: Math, Science, & Technology Teachers, Counselors, and other interested educators in Middle & High Schools

What: One day professional development opportunity sponsored by the Finger Lakes Stem Hub comprised of 2 site tours of Advanced manufacturing or STEM-related Industries and a culminating presentation or activity highlighting education and training opportunities and exposure to people working in the industry (young STEM employees) and leaders representing the companies (HR or Training Managers, Owners, CEO's).

How: Collaborate initially with BOCES 1 and 2 to sponsor the activity as a Professional Development Opportunity that educators can use to fulfill NYS requirements, run a pilot in Monroe County and if successful replicate in FL Region through Wayne - Finger Lakes and Genesee Valley BOCES.

Next Steps:

1. FLX STEM Hub Support and Feedback
2. Contact Assistant Superintendents of Instruction at BOCES 1 & 2 (both of whom I have professional relationships with)

3. Begin Planning process for a Spring '23 or at the latest Fall '23 implementation (depending on scheduled BOCES Staff Development dates)

- Anyone interested in joining this group, please contact Joe.
- Pathways to STEM careers

7. Next meeting: Friday, February 10, 2023

- [Zoom link](#) for meeting which may be hybrid or in person. Watch for announcements as we get closer.