

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

October 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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Learn more about Partnership levels and opportunities on the Hub's [website](#).

**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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OCTOBER 2022 ROUNDTABLE BULLETIN

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- a. Reminder to complete Hub Network Resource Directory information
 - i. [Link to add yourself to directory](#)
 - ii. Directory link to view members can be requested. Please send requests to Tammy at flxstem.info@gmail.com
 - iii. This directory is for Hub network member use only.

- b. Present (in person): Joe Marinelli (FLX STEM Hub), Tammy Bonisteel (FLX STEM Hub), Dan Schneiderman (RMSC Solar Eclipse, Rochester Maker Faire), Sharon Sweeney (C&S Companies), Mike Wischnowski (St. John Fisher), Jim VanKouwenberg (Optimax), Danielle Lavell (RMSC), Hezal (Panel member, RIT student), Andrew (Panel member, Optimax), Ben student (Panel member, Optimax)

- c. Present (virtually): David Roth (HFL CSD), Taylor Walders (RMSC), Marion French (WXXI), Harold Clark (Terra Fairs), Steven Montemarano (BOCES 4 Science), Carla Stough-Huffman (GRASSA), Michael DuPre (Science Exploration Days), Ashley Simmons (RIT STEP), Bruce Capron (HFL CSD), Lindsey (Panel member, St. John Fisher student), Pyar Mo (Panel member, RIT student)

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. Hub's Revised Partnership Opportunities, Donor's Program
 - You can find the updated document on the Hub's website, on the [About](#) page.
 - If you have connections with any potential donors, please send to Joe.

- b. Future Presentations
 - Currently planned through November
 - Looking for ideas for December and into 2023. Please submit ideas to Joe.

- c. Hub's Strategic Plan
 - Current strategic plan is ending and needs to be updated. The current document was for 2018-2022.
 - We would like input from Network members, including Roundtable participants, before the Executive Committee meets to update this document.
 - Current [Strategic Plan](#) can be found on the Hub website on the About page.

- d. Hub Network Mixer
 - Next Mixer is being planned for Spring 2023
 - This will be the first mixer held since the pandemic began

- e. Hub Executive Advisory Committee
 - This membership will be posted on the website to increase the Hub's transparency.
 - Members will be listed along with the job description, ecosystem representation and term.

3. STEM RELATED TOPIC PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

A conversation with high school graduates currently employed in a STEM career or enrolled in a college STEM program

- Pyar Mo and Hezal Kopar- RIT former STEP Scholars and current RIT students
- Lindsey DeBonis- NOYCE Scholar and current student at St. John Fisher University
- Ben Kennard and Andrew Kiedrowski- employed at Optimax Systems

This interactive conversation was intended to answer important questions regarding the talent pool needed to meet workforce demands:

- When during your K-12 experience did you decide on a STEM career?
- What got you interested in a STEM career field?
- What difficulties or barriers did you encounter along the way and how did you overcome them?
- What supports did you encounter along the way?
- What are your career objectives?

- What advice would you give educators to encourage and prepare students for STEM careers?

4. ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANTS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

a. Carla Stough-Huffman (GRASSA)

- GRASSA will be hiring consultants to do some stem programming in their after school programs
- Ward Science is putting together a list of some of their more recommended programming to take a look at and evaluate.
- Topic they are looking at including is the Eclipse, which they don't currently have programming. Carla will connect them with RMSC.
- Lights on after school celebration next Thursday. It is the national night to celebrate all out of school time programming
- GRASSA is once again supporting the accessible trick or treat event at Frontier Field next Thursday. They have more than 500 kids registered already. Any child, 10 and younger, and any child 14 and younger with disabilities, attends for free.

b. Dan Schneiderman (RMSC Solar Eclipse, Rochester Maker Faire)

- Dan will be speaking at STANYS about the eclipse
- <https://rmsc.org/science-museum/programs-and-events/item/905-total-solar-eclipse-lecture>
- <https://rochestereclipse2024.org/lightsolar-make-a-thon/>
- <https://eclipse.aas.org/workshops/oct2022>
- Free eclipse training on Sunday, Oct 23: <https://eclipse.aas.org/workshops/outreach>
- There is a NISE Network eclipse planning workshop in two weeks (Oct 25th) if anyone is interested: <https://www.nisenet.org/events/online-workshop/online-workshop-kick-start-your-planning-2023-and-2024-solar-eclipse-events>
- Science ambassador program for 50 different organizations and 100 ambassadors to flood the region
- <https://rmsc.org/science-museum/programs-and-events/item/127-rm-sc-after-dark>
- <https://rmsc.org/science-museum/programs-and-events/item/128-science-on-the-edge-lectures>

- FIRST Robotics Off Season Event is also on Oct 22: <http://ruckus.penfieldrobotics.com/>
 - Maker Faire Rochester is still looking for makers and volunteers to help out this year. The Student STEAM Day is back as well! <https://rochester.makerfaire.com/>
 - A year from today is the partial eclipse. We only get 25% of it, it's in exactly a year, on a Saturday next year at 1-5 Pm.
 - We are partnering with this group called Light solar that make accessible devices for the visually impaired to experience the eclipse.
 - They are making 50 devices in a matter of hours, so that they can be given away to the visually impaired across the US to help them experience the eclipse. Volunteers wanted to help with this project.
 - Dan is coming on full time at RMSC
 - Currently involved in a project to bring telescopes, solar filters, lenses, kits., calendars and models to different organizations. These will be distributed across the 9 counties.
- c. Sharon Sharon Sweeney (C&S Companies)
- Engineer your career event will accommodate students that need time in the industry to get their CTE designation on their diploma. This will happen at C&S.
 - [Girls Inc](#) Girls Inc will engage students 5 to 10 years old in STEM careers They will have a table with hands on activities at the event.
- d. Taylor Walders (RMSC)
- RMSC's Science on the Edge Lecture Series: <https://rmsc.org/science-museum/programs-and-events/item/128-science-on-the-edge-lectures>
 - RMSC's Upcoming After Dark: <https://rmsc.org/science-museum/programs-and-events/item/127-rm-sc-after-dark>
- e. Bruce Capron (HFL CSD)
- Working with David Roth, his replacement at HFL, to bring him into the Hub network. Bruce is retiring.
- f. David Roth (HFL CSD)

- STEM Club active, they are currently looking for speakers. They have speakers every 2 weeks
- Looking for volunteers to speak if anyone is interested in presenting
- Project Lead the Way is also offered at HFL.

g. Marion French (WXXI)

- Lots of problem solving problems and hands-on learning can be found for free from Design Squad: <https://pbskids.org/designsquad/projects/>
- <https://www.wxxi.org/highlights/2022/09/indie-lens-pop-and-move-include-present-move-me> Join WXXI for a special screening and discussion of Move Me about a dancer paralyzed with a spinal cord injury that tests the limits of her recovery while adapting to life with a disability. Screening will be followed by a panel discussion on Monday, October 17 at 6:30 p.m. at WXXI's Studios, 280 State Street. The event is free, but reservations are required via EventBrite.

i. Harold Clark (Terra Fairs)

- Rochester Finger Lakes Science and Engineering Fair will be March eighteenth at the Rochester Museum and Science Center in person this year,
- . If students are doing a project for first robotics, or for future cities, or for another type of activity, they could consider turning that into a science fair project

j. Michael DuPre (Science Exploration Days)

- Michael will continue on with the Hub as a STANYS representative for the Central-Western section
- STANYS conference will be shifting from Rochester, where it's been for the last number of years, to Syracuse. This year's program seems to be a big push towards inclusion and diversity. What does that look like, and how to handle diverse groups of students in a science classroom

k. Steven Montemarano (BOCES 4 Science)

- Will also be at STANYS for the weekend and some of their teachers will be presenting about engineering.

- They are starting to move their facility and are focused on transitioning from where they are to where they are going and consolidating operations to ensure that districts get still get all their kits and all their materials.

1. Jim VanKouwenberg (Optimax)

- Optimax is going to be participating in an event at the RMSC in a couple of weeks. It's with all the fourth graders in RCSD. They will have optics demonstrations for fourth graders.
- Building expansion continues at Optimax. They have another 35,000 square feet
- How do we get more students in the pipeline? How do we encourage young people to be interested in welding and any of the advanced manufacturing? Jobs are available, with good income.
- Even if interns/student leave after their program is done, it's still helping with workforce development in the region, they are more aware of their options and can contribute to the local economy and workforce.

Ashley Simmons (RIT STEP)

Mike Wischnowski (St. John Fisher)

5. FLX STEM HUB REPORTS

a. STEM Recognition Program (Carla Stough-Huffman)

- This will be a transition year
- We need to look at judging rubric, make sure it still fits, and make sure OST programming is correctly evaluated
- Info will be sent out to network to review
- Discussion with RMSC regarding merging the two events. It was decided that theirs is primarily a fundraiser/more adult affair, and that it might not be the best space from the youth perspective, which is something we have tried to incorporate in our event.

b. STEM Professional Learning (Steve Montemarano)

- Subcommittee meeting being planned for December
- Please contact Steve if you want to have input into this committee

c. Building the STEM Talent Pipeline (Bill Rotenberg)

- No updates at this time

- d. Advocacy (Joe Marinelli)
 - No updates at this time
- e. Regional Outreach (Joe Marinelli)
 - No updates at this time
- f. FLX Website (Tammy Bonisteel)
 - Updating website is ongoing, will be reaching out to network members for feedback.

6. Future Featured Presentations

- November 11- NASA HUNCH STUDENT MENTOR Program (Gene Gordon)
- Please submit ideas for suggestions for future presentations
- Possibly use time at a meeting to get input on strategic plan

7. Next Meeting: Friday November 11th at 8:00 AM. This meeting is planned for as a hybrid meeting. In person attendance will be at the RMSC Planetarium in the multipurpose room. Virtual will be hosted via zoom.