

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

February 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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FEBRUARY 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), Marv Sachs (Brighton CSD), Michael DuPre (Science Exploration Days), Marion French (WXXI), Angela Olkey (GST BOCES), Carla Stough-Huffman (GRASA), Harold Clark (Terra Fairs), Jim VanKouwenberg (Optimax), JD Pabis (C&S Companies), Sharon Sweeney (C&S Companies), Steven Montemarano (BOCES 4 Science), Gene Gordon (NASA), Gretchen Anthony (Teaching Artists ROC), Pete Maslyn (Ontario County Farm Bureau)

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. STEM Learning Ecosystem Community of Practice Update
 - Conference this year is May first to the third.
- b. Recommendations for Future Roundtable Presentations
 - If you have any suggestions or would like to present, please contact Joe.
 - Harold volunteered to present in April on the Science and Engineering Fair
- c. NYS Quality STEM Rubric
 - The group of Hubs is looking at updating the [rubric](#) that we use to recognize quality STEM programs.
 - Several of our Hub members helped with the development of this statewide rubric.
 - If anyone is interested in being on the committee to update the rubric, please see Joe and he will submit your name for nomination.
 - This committee will probably be meeting virtually.

3. STEM RELATED PRESENTATION ON STRATEGIC PLAN SURVEY AND NEW PLAN

The presentation was devoted to a review and discussion of the draft of the 2023-2027 FLX STEM Hub Strategic Plan. At the December Roundtable we reviewed and critiqued a proposed draft of a survey about the current plan and suggestions for amending the survey. It was revised and sent out to all network members. Survey was closed on Jan. 16. We shared the results of the survey and the updated draft to the Roundtable for review which will be presented to the Executive Advisory Committee once feedback from the Roundtable has been gathered and evaluated for consideration.

4. ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

- a. Gretchen Anthony (Teaching Artists ROC)
 - waiting to hear back from a couple of grants that we put in for summer programming.
 - Upcoming program called Thinking Inside the Box, which is about play and using boxes as part of it.
- b. Jim VanKouwenberg (Optimax)
 - Signing day is coming up for the [Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship program](#). Optimax has 4 students coming out of that program.
 - East High has an optics program and a vision care program. They may be interested in doing a presentation. Optimax has about a half a dozen of their graduates
 - Optimax continues to hire new staff. The new facility is going to open up later this year.
- c. Harold Clark (Terra Fairs)
 - Fair is coming up on March 18th
 - Judges are still needed 9 AM – 1:30. If you are interested, please contact Harold.
- d. Marv Sachs (Brighton CSD)
 - Brighton Superintendent, Kevin McGowan, has won award for being [Superintendent of the Year](#).
 - District is looking for a new elementary school principal.

e. Carla Stough-Huffman (GRASA)

- Planning their eighth annual February summit, which is a free professional development day that GRASA offers to any educators: formal, informal, home school parents, etc. Anybody who wants to come learn, it's free and open to the public.
- Summit details will be distributed via the google group.
- Play is the central focus. They will be showing a documentary called [Chasing Childhood](#), which demonstrates the harm that we do to our children by taking free play away from them.
- Katie Stoss (Roundtable member) is going to pilot the Plastics Pollution curriculum that she developed over the last year and a half specifically for out of school time programs.
- Willing to do a grant writing session and help Hub members learn how to write grants.
- Willing to help look for grants and write some on behalf of the Hub. If you are interested in helping, please contact Carla.

f. Michael DuPre (Science Exploration Days)

- Trying to figure out new responsibilities as a liaison between the Hub and Central Western section STANYS
- Will be sharing the State Newsletter bulletins with the Hub.
- Will also share Hub news with STANYS.
- There are approximately 1,000 Science teachers in the 5-county area that this section services that are on their email list.

g. Steven Montemarano (BOCES 4 Science)

- BOCES has the new investigation kits that have been coming out from the State for elementary and middle school students.
- They have released a catalogue indicating kits that are available, and then providing some professional development to go with them.
- In March, the Superintendents will be out in Albany. BOCES 4 Science has been invited to showcase themselves.
- Construction is finishing up on their new space. They have been in temporary space and are getting ready to move again.
- They are moving up from about 35,000 square feet to 65,000 square feet.

h. Marion French (WXXI)

- WXXI is working a statewide focus on the Overdose Epidemic which has a focus week of Feb. 13-19 on all Public Media stations in NY in partnership with NYSED and other related state agencies. Programming is listed and live forum at: <https://wxxi.org/overdose>
- There are some great resources that coming out of Sesame Street that are directed toward families that are dealing with addiction, and have young children, and how to deal with that situation.
- Lots of work on early childhood family engagement around the national Ready to Learn grant with virtual and in-person Family Community Learning Play and Learn Science.
- Two new shows started February 6: [Work It Out Wombats](#) and [City Island](#). They focus on how communities and work takes place at an appropriate level for 3-8 year olds. Both focus on problem solving.
- Working with families to help decide what future programs look like in terms of being virtual, in person, or a mix. Some programs have had to be modified for length to fit families' needs
- New staff member coming on board to help with the Ready to Learn Grant. She's bilingual, which will be a huge benefit.

i. Gene Gordon (NASA)

- This is the busiest month of the year for the NASA entrepreneurship program, where all the students around the country are presenting their projects that they've been working on since the school year began.
- They have somewhere between 300 and 400 teams that they are doing critical design reviews on their project. They will be traveling to Florida and New Jersey to meet in person with some of them.
- Finalists will be chosen and then in April the finalists get invited to present to NASA engineers and astronauts.
- After that they will be looking for more schools throughout New York State to participate in the [HUNCH program](#).
- If you know of schools that might be interested in taking part next year, Gene is willing to talk with them (virtually or in-person) to see if they are a good fit.

j. Sharon Sweeney (C&S Companies)

- C&S sponsored a program with the 4 County School Boards Association a couple of weeks ago. Terry Hopkins (Hub network member) presented the program on school and business partnerships, and that presentation led to a really robust conversation with the group of school board members around the table.

k. Tammy

- Interesting observation at an “Ask the Superintendent” meeting this week. Many parents of incoming high schoolers are still confused by the CTE programs that our local districts have to offer and what the benefit of participating might be
- There’s also a lot of confusion among parents about dual enrollment and what that entails and how it may benefit their students.
- We are not reaching parents in the way we have been hoping to do
- Can we reach out to kids who have been through these programs to show where they are now and what path they took after graduation?
- Superintendent realized there was a shortage of skilled workers when they couldn’t find enough electricians to bid on a project. This may be a great time to get our message out, since we’ve been saying it for years, but people are feeling the effects directly right now.

5. HUB NETWORK COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. STEM Recognition Program (Carla Stough-Huffman)

- We need to decide if we want to recognize programs or have a judged competition.
- If we want to do simple recognition, we may not need to use the [rubric](#)
- Maybe letting the students make a two-minute video explaining what they did, why they did it, how they did it might be a different way to get programs involved.
- Updates will be shared with the committee by email, no meeting today

b. STEM Professional Learning (Steve Montemarano)

- They have been trying to work with some college students to help curate and provide resources videos
- Meeting is being set up with St. John Fisher to meet with students to get them on board with helping with this project.

- Looking to work with other local colleges and universities if possible
- There are a lot of great ideas, not it's time to put something in action,.
- Going slowly due to limited time, but moving in the right direction.

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)

- New Hub calendar of events is now up and running and we have worked the kinks out of it. Please add any STEM events you are aware of to the calendar. Go to the [website](#), scroll down to the “Submit an Event” button. Direct link to submit: <https://www.flxstem.org/calendar/>
- The Hub does not have the resources to add all the events in our region to this calendar. We need help from all network members to add their own events here.
- Events go into a moderated queue, so they will not appear immediately. Please include as much detail as possible, since we cannot edit submitted events, we can only approve or deny them.

6. Next meeting: Friday, March 10, 2023

a. [Zoom link for meeting](#)

- b. At this point, the meeting is planned to be hybrid. Please watch email for updates if we need to move it to fully remote.