

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 2026

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.



 ***The Finger Lakes STEM Hub
would like to thank our
Partners for their support***

Gold Level Partner:  ***Silver Level Partners:***  

Bronze Level Partners:    

Supporters: *Terra Science and Education*

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.*

The information provided is for your information only and the Finger Lakes STEM Hub does not endorse the information or views expressed or ensure the accuracy of any information

FEBRUARY 2026 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), Harold Clark (Terra), Sharon Sweeney (C&S Companies), Jessica Townley (Hobart William Smith), Michael DuPre (STANYS CWS), Marv Sachs (Brighton CSD), Mary Eileen Wood (Terra Ed), Donna Smith (AmeriCOM), Gene Gordon (STANYS/NASA Hunch), Tracie McGinnity (UR Wilmot Cancer Institute), Michael Occhino (UR), JD Pabis (C&S Companies), Jeremy Elliott-Engel (Hobart William Smith), Marion French (WXXI), Kelly Pearson (UR)

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. Hub Metrics 2026
 - Presentation by Harold Clark, team lead for Metrics committee
 - Committee members: Tammy Bonisteel, Harold Clark, Joe Marinelli, Marv Sachs, Carla Stough-Huffman, Kaeti Stoss
 - 5 objectives in the strategic plan, committee met to discuss metrics for each
 - 7 metrics with targets were identified.
 - Objective 1: Promote STEM through Collaborations & Networking
 1. Professional Learning for those engaged in STEM education and Careers
 - a. Metric: Number of Roundtable Presentations by Non-Members
 - b. Target: 1/3 of 10
 2. Partnerships/Collaborations
 - Metric: Number of Partnerships among Hub Members

- Target: 3-5 new collaborations per year
- Roundtable members share collaborations as part of their monthly readout on activities, so data collected monthly in Roundtable notes
- Objective 2: To create formal opportunities for Network Members to solicit collaborative support for their own projects
 - Metric: Number of times post-Roundtable Breakout Rooms are used
 - Target: Twice/year
 - Start offering post-Roundtable Rooms in March
- Objective 3: Create opportunities for Network Members to meet informally
 - Metric: Number of Mixers
 - Target: 3/year
 - Metric: Number of attendees
 - Target: 20/event with 2 attendees being new
- Objective 4: Expand Hub Membership
 - Metric: Number of regular attendees at Hub events (*Hub Events are Roundtable and Mixers. Regular attendee defined as attending 4 of the 13 annual events*)
 - Target: 10% annual increase
 - Metric: Number of addresses on the list-serv
 - Target: 10% annual increase
- Objective 5: Goals for Financial Growth
 - Metric: Total number of dollars contributed to the Hub annually
 - Target: 25% increase

b. Funding for the Hub operation

- This committee has come up with recommendation for a new sponsorship plan to share with our network.
- Looking for volunteers to deepen and broaden connections with STEM-related groups and industries in our region.
- Looking to broaden engagement with STEM businesses. These opportunities might include speaking at our Roundtable, co-hosting a

social networking event, collaborating on a project, or becoming a sponsor.

- If you have any connections, please share with Joe.
- Applying for a grant to help cover Hub operations, not many grants are available for operating expenses. Will announce updates to this process next month.

c. Finger Lakes Regional STEM Summit

- Deadline to register is today
- Summit Details: 2/23/26 at FLCC, stage 14. 8AM-3PM.
- This action-focused summit will bring together educators, industry partners, funders, and community-based organizations to strengthen partnerships, align strategies, and share resources that drive collective impact in STEM education.
- Follow up report will be given at March Roundtable.

3. STEM RELATED ORGANIZATION PRESENTATION

a. Title of Presentation: INVENTION CONVENTION NEW YORK

b. Presenters: Mary Eileen Wood, STEM Engagement Coordinator, Terra Science and Education and Harold Clark, Director, TERRA Rochester, Finger Lakes Science and Engineering Fair

c. Terra is the new affiliate for the Invention Convention, so every student in the FLX STEM Hub territory has access to actual invention experience, and an opportunity to present their invention at a regional virtual competition as if they were in “Shark Tank”. TRFSEF is the competition host for kids grades 6-12 on 3/21. Registration closes 3/1. K-5 is 4/11, Finals are 5/2 in Albany at the NYS Museum.

d. Mary Eileen shared some links:

- cny@newyorkinvents.org
- <https://newyorkinvents.org>
- <https://terraed.org>
- Many IC resources are available online at no cost.
- Power point of this presentation is available upon request. Please contact Tammy at flxstem.info@gmail.com if you would like a copy. It will also be distributed to the google group listserve.
- Please share this info with any science or educational groups you are connected with.

4. ROUNDTABLE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES: Optional opportunity for participants to share current or future programs, projects or other events ideas and proposals, and solicit collaborations

- a. Jessica Townley (Hobart William Smith)
 - STEM Career Coach at HWS
 - Works with students in STEM careers
 - Help students with resumes and career exploration, LinkedIn profiles, grad school applications etc.

- b. Jeremy Elliott-Engel (Hobart William Smith)
 - If you are an employer with specific job opportunities, please share specific opportunities to elliottengel@hws.edu

- c. JD Pabis (C&S Companies)
 - Encourages parents and organizations to help schools look at STEM projects. Many projects start planning several years out.
 - Rural schools have been doing a lot of STEM as it relates to agriculture

- d. Michael DuPre (STANYS CWS)
 - Offered to work with STANYS CWS for a possible sponsorship or donation.
 - Would like to help STANYS offer an award for the Terra Fair.
 - Pub night coming up soon, date TBA.

- e. Donna Smith (AmeriCOM)
 - Will be at the RMSC next week for days making hologram viewers with kids.
 - In March will be presenting optics and optics resources to the master teachers in the central Division.
 - This month will be participating in the Wilson High career Fair and also at the ROC Employment Fair, also at Wilson.
 - Getting ready to partner with Pima Community College in Tucson, AZ
 - Has had a lot of good connections with the Hub and would like to share sponsorship information with her organization.
 - Will be presenting at next Month's FLX STEM Hub Roundtable

- f. Kelly Pearson (UR)
- Works at the center for Professional Development and Education Reform at the University of Rochester.
 - They work with teachers both in and out of schools and help with a variety of programming, mentoring, and using new standards. They aim to get the research they are doing at the university into the hands of the community, so that they can benefit.
 - Working on broader impacts, and hopes to present this new direction at a future roundtable.
- g. Gene Gordon (STANYS/NASA Hunch)
- Mentor for NYS Hunch. Had their critical design review at RIT last weekend, and had 20 teams that included over 100 students ranging from Cortland High School all the way to Toronto, who came to RIT and presented their projects. Finalists will attend finals in Houston in April.
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- h. Marion French (WXXI)
- ROC Jobs Explained: https://www.instagram.com/rocjobs_explained/
 - Continuing ROC Jobs Explained, which is a nationally funded project focused on career pathways and exploration for upper high school and young adults, age 15-26. This program is focused on reaching them directly to show them different career options they may not know about.
 - Focus is on three career sectors: construction and installation, green jobs and sustainability, and manufacturing.
 - Goal is to spark interest, then connect them with partners for pre-apprenticeship programs, and apprenticeship programs and other career programs.
 - Presenting at the Wilson Career Fair in March.
 - Early childhood staff just finished a 3-part training with pre-K teachers from the city and from community-based organizations that work with RCSD on outdoor education and how to implement that. Goal is to get them more comfortable with the idea of teaching STEM and show them how to easily incorporate it into their programs.
 - They have had family events aimed at families with a pre-K level student, although the whole extended family is included. Events include dinner

and themed, hands-on opportunities to do together. After the event they discuss the areas the parents have learned skills in, such as literacy and math.

i. Harold Clark (Terra)

- For the Fair they had a workshop on posters and presentations and how to make a high-quality entry for submission. Working with RIT STEP and presented by the RIT chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers.
- RIT STEP program: <https://www.rit.edu/k12/science-and-technology-entry-program>
- RIT Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers: <https://www.facebook.com/ritnsbe/>

j. Mary Eileen Wood (Terra Ed)

- Every October they have over \$100,000 in capacity-building grants for schools and non-profits to apply for. Past grantees have included libraries, school districts and makerspaces. Last year 30% of applicants received a grant. Apply at <https://terraed.org> under endowments.
- Please share information about Invention Convention widely
- Please share information on the Terra Rochester Science and Engineering Fair.

k. Marv Sachs (Brighton CSD)

- Brighton recently had one of their teachers receive the Golden Apple Award from Channel 8.
- Successful mixer held at NTID.

l. Michael Occhino (UR)

- Kicked off a National Science Foundation five-year fellowship Noyce Microelectronics with ten Syracuse teachers + 10 Idaho teachers
- Successful Cadre session on electrochemical engineering with Agnes Thorarinsdottir - UR Professor
- Coming up: Hosting our Noyce Northeast Professional Learning Network Regional Conference in Philadelphia (March 26-28)

m. Tammy Bonisteel (FLX STEM Hub)

- Reminder to share links of programs and events if you would like them included in the Roundtable Bulletin

5. FLX STEM HUB WORK GROUP REPORTS: Break-out rooms available as needed.

This option will be available for any small group or committee that would like to meet following the Roundtable. If you would like a break-out room assigned, please mention it at the beginning of the meeting so we can get that set up for you.

6. Meeting Information

- Meeting details: We meet the second Friday of each month from 8-10 AM, with committee meetings to follow as needed.
 - [Zoom Link](#) (will work for all meetings September 2025-Auguster 2026)
- Future featured presentations:
 - March 13: Igniting Futures- Partnering with Americom for K-12 STEM Education
 - April10: STEM Learning for Practicing Teachers: Partnering with Higher Ed. UR
 - If you would like to present, or have an idea for a presenter, please contact Joe.