

**Governor's Council of Women and Girls**  
**Education and STEAM Subcommittee**  
**June 30, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting Minutes**

*Attendees: Executive Director Tim Larson, Commissioner Sibongile Magubane, Noele Kidney, Shaun Formica, Jennifer Michalek, Heather Mitchell, Shamare Holmes, Eric Smith, Karen DeMeola, Elizabeth Durgin, Lynn Raicik, Winnie Yu Ng, Heather McDonald, Jacqueline Coleman, Pam Casiano, Melissa Hickey, Alex Novak Foster, Kristin Violette, Matt Mervis, Sheryl McNamee, Gwen Brantley, Alyce Stiles, Nana Amos, Candace Freedenberg, Dr. Heidi Gold, Debra Goss and Elizabeth Radday*

**1. Opening Remarks, Director Larson and Commissioner Magubane**

**2. Subcommittee reports**

- a. **Coding Challenge - Jennifer Michalek (SDE)** - Three different challenges – concept challenge, prototype challenge, development challenges; 430 total submissions from either a team or an individual student with males having slightly higher participation; team members have identified preliminary areas that need to be improved in coming years; planning team will work toward articulating the information soon.
- b. **Information Hub - Eric Smith (DOT)** - over the last couple of months, they have been interviewing intern candidates and have selected intern – UCONN public policy intern who will onboard in August and work on COWAG Information HUB internet structure/develop website messaging to promote woman and girls.
- c. **ARTS - Melissa Hickey (SDE)** - Big push for woman in the arts; schools, colleges, universities hooked into it; currently working with FOX 61 interviewing various artists, former UHART professor; next leg – focus on mentorships and bring arts out into the community/Jackie Coleman
- d. **INTERNSHIP – Lynn Raicik (CCAT)** – roll out STEAM mentor toolkit; have been focused on the development of the toolkit; drafted a letter from Lt. Governor to be included within the toolkit; employees do not need to rely on management for mentor opportunities - toolkit will highlight partners. Still holding “Power half hour” – weekly meetings each Wednesday

**3. Steering Committee Member Presentations**

- a. **ED Advance, Matt Mervis** - Skills 21; 20-year program; features rich combination of challenge-based learning, professional development, experiential learning events, and Student Expo; Categories: Advanced manufacturing, capstone, computer science, etc.; Took the Capstone project – made it smaller to accommodate about 1,000 kids over the past two years; Working with school

districts – capstone/mastery-based diploma assessment; Always trying to recruit teachers/STEM, augmented reality; Visit Skills21.org for more information; and short projects: Good News with Gracie (Podcast): What are the causes of climate change?

- b. **CT VOICES** – *rescheduled for August or October meeting*
  - c. **Girls’ Reality Empowerment Circle, Shamare Holmes** - Have been meeting since COVID (work has continued); Live Girl – building inclusive leaders Grades 5-8 then connected with paid internships; Body image, building leaders LifeBridge; New Canaan – Live Girl – 7 Bridgeport girls were able to attend New Canaan camp; pushing robotics and STEM chapter to their girls – more vs. dance
  - d. **Arts for Learning CT (Hamden), Alex Novak Foster** - Was able to transition artists to teaching digitally; Transitioning back into schools; Re-booting HOT Schools Pilot 1. Harding High (Bridgeport), 2. Church Street School (Hamden) and 3. Ashford School (Ashford); In the future all children will receive access to performances, workshops, and residences with teacher artists; New Britain Summer Learning Experience; Arts integration approach; Students are “invited” (not required) - added 2 weeks this year geared toward summer fun and re-acclimating to school, it’s been largest contract/artists – since the start; about to complete a mural in New Haven near Good Fellas - Artist Program Framework; and understanding culturally responsive teaching/focus on connecting people with resources
  - e. **Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Lynn Raicik and Alyce Stiles** - Woman and manufacturing Industry ambassador program using manufacturing talent to showcase CT manufactures and inspire the next generation; Woman of innovation - since 2011; Employer driven partnership - Employer engagement, Job seeker recruitment and pre-qualification, and Job quality/job retention/incumbent worker training; Leader for reemploying manufacturing employees who have recently lost jobs’ Employers work - placing young adults with no experience into careers; Industry ambassadors – bridge between workers and employers - engaging and inspiring; AMEP – advanced manufacturing employer partnership; Continued Center for Advanced Technology, Inc – free online trainings for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Course and have partnered with Goodwin university and CCSU to fund apprentices for CT Manufacturing workforce development initiative.
4. Next subcommittee meeting will be Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. via TEAMS. Full Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. via ZOOM.
5. Meeting ended at 2:25 p.m.