South Metro-Salem STEM Partnership

Newby Elementary Family Code Night – February 2023

Organization

Backbone Organization: Oregon Institute of Technology
Counties in Region: Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Clackamas, parts of Washington
Sq. Miles in Region: 4,535
STEM Hub Director: Julia Betts
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By the Numbers

\# School Districts: 32
\# Students: 135,661
\# Educators participated in Professional Development: 2,577
\# Educator Hours in Hub PD: 10,278
\# Students participated in STEM Hub Programs: 33,112
\# Student hours in STEM Hub Supported Programs: 110,380

Empowering Educators: trainings in equity-based, standards-aligned curriculum

In partnership with fellow STEM Hubs within our Oregon network, we provided numerous opportunities for educators to strengthen their skills and expertise in equity-focused STEM instruction. Educators had the opportunity participate in trainings and collaborate in both in-person and remote coaching and professional learning communities, aimed at establishing sustainable practices to build an inclusive and welcoming STEM learning environment for all Oregon students.

Specific opportunities included: Design Thinking for Equity, Joy & Justice in Mathematics, Math for

Social Justice, Bootstrap Data Science & Bootstrap Algebra, Exploring Computer Science, E-Textiles, and Ambitious Science Teaching.

Through a spirit of team collaboration across the district, educators participated in our STEM Leadership Team (SLT). The SLT developed two immersive workshop series that focused on vertical alignment of Science across grade bands. The series, "Expanding Elementary Science" and "Making & Tinkering" featured hands-on activities, lesson-planning and coaching. These efforts to directly support educator collaboration, with an emphasis on strengthening the foundations of science education at the Elementary level, are a key example of the hub's commitment to long-term strategies to support our region.

Building enthusiasm for **Computer Science**: Regional STEAM Night

In 2023, South Metro-Salem STEM Partnership (SMSP) launched their first annual regional event, aimed at broadening access and awareness of Computer Science (CS) across our region. In alignment with the state's Computer Science Implementation Plan, and in partnership with CS is Elementary, the Hub partnered with over 20 schools, school districts and public libraries in a live-streamed, hands-on coding event. Families came together to share a meal, explore coding activities, and build community around STEM. Materials for the event were translated into the eleven most requested languages, and the live-streamed event was simultaneously translated into other languages. An estimated 3,500 people participated in this event, including children, family members, educators and administrators from over 15 school districts. We also gathered

participant feedback on interest and awareness of Computer Science and the barriers to participation in STEM opportunities.

Expanding our efforts in **Career-Connected Learning**

During the 2021-2023 biennium, the SMSP Hub established a new Career-Connected Learning (CCL) Director position in response to the growing developments across the state and our continued commitment to improve CCL access.

Strategies we are accessing include:
Creating virtual opportunities for guest speakers through Oregon Connections in partnership with Southern Oregon and Oregon Coast STEM Hubs.
Our Industry Speed Networking brought together nearly 50 educators and 40 industry leaders from the region in a fast-paced, engaging session aimed at fostering relationships for future CCL experiences.
In close partnership with Mid-Willamette Education Consortium, Willamette ESD/Willamette Promise, as well as Willamette and Clackamas Workforce Boards and our CTE Regional Coordinators, the Hub championed many CCL programs that promoted opportunities for both students and educators, including internships, educator externships, industry tours, and career fairs. Continued efforts to support Healthcare pathways and experiences through our IGNITE Healthcare program include an expanded partnership with workforce boards, additional program sites for our Youth Health Corps, and committed funding from the US Dept of Education to evaluate existing programming to ensure a culturally responsive, inclusive approach.