

The NeoStem Ecosystem: Plan for 2018

SUMMARY: The NeoStem Ecosystem is broadening its focus from a dominant concentration on computer science and computational thinking. In 2018, the ecosystem will begin working to improve access to and excitement for STEM throughout the region.

When we first organized, we adopted a concept of “clusters” to organize our work. We will keep this basic structure, but make a few changes and additions to the clusters.

The clusters will be:

- Connectors & Storytellers
- Extended Learning
- Infrastructure & Systems
- Formal Learning
- Regional Engagement
- Special Projects

We are now developing the goals, work outlines and organizational structures for each of the clusters.

We will have the final plan ready for your review by February when we meet as a large group. The date will be announced shortly.

For now, here are the beginning plans and steps for how you can engage with the work of some of the clusters.

Please consider joining the planned work of these various clusters by emailing one of the coordinators. The tentative work plans for each of the clusters is linked.

Coordinators for the clusters are:

Connectors and Storytellers: [Alyssa Briggs](#) and [Kevin Kelly](#)

Extended Learning: [Karyn Torigoe](#), [Danielle Coward](#) and [Robin Stone](#)

Infrastructure & Systems: [Tim Sisson](#), [Kate O’Hara](#), [Renee Yoder](#), Scott Vollmer

Formal Learning: [Bryan Hilko](#), [Jake Taylor](#), [Robin Stone](#), [Diane Rossa](#) and Scott Vollmer

Regional Engagement: Looking for Coordinators

Special Projects: Looking for Coordinators

Connectors & Storytellers Cluster

[Alyssa Briggs](#) and [Kevin Kelly](#)

Connectors & Storytellers Initiatives:

- [Asset Mapping 2.0](#) - Examine and revise the pitch for organizations to complete the asset mapping survey; identify organizations to target; develop dissemination plan.

Leaders: Renee Yoder and Karyn Torigoe

First Step: Alyssa will send the current material and a description of the purpose of the asset mapping to Renee and Karyn.

- [Storytelling](#) - We want to develop stories about interesting STEM work that is happening throughout the region.

Leaders: Kevin Kelly and Alyssa Briggs

First Step: We need NeoStem members to send story tips and contact information to Alyssa. She will write the first drafts of the stories and send to Kevin for presentation. The stories will then be posted on the NeoStem website, distributed to members for resharing and posting on social media. (Please see an [example](#) of one of the stories we recently published on www.neostem.org.)

Extended Learning Cluster

[Karyn Torigoe](#), [Danielle Coward](#) and [Robin Stone](#)

Extended Learning Center Initiatives:

One idea is to develop PDs and Community of Practice for providers

- Girls Who Code
 - Jake Taylor, Tim Sisson, Alyssa Briggs will work on this initiative.
 - Bryan Hilko, Kate O'Hara and Renee Yoder all want more information.
- Autonomous Soap Box Derby
 - Alyssa Briggs, Kevin Kelly, Bobby Dinkings and George Bilokonsky are working on this initiative
- Coding and the Dancing Bees
 - We need to talk with the original group - Megan et. al and track down the status.

Infrastructure and Systems

[Tim Sisson](#), [Kate O'Hara](#), [Renee Yoder](#), Scott Vollmer

Infrastructure and Systems Initiatives:

- The I&S Cluster will help guide the NeoStem Ecosystem and its actions.
 - The I&S Cluster will begin its work by setting goals and metrics for the various pending and planned NeoStem initiatives and clusters. The I&S Cluster will also identify needs.

- The Infrastructure Cluster will work through Google Docs to set these goals and metrics between Dec. 15 and Feb. 1.

Formal Learning

[Bryan Hilko](#), [Jake Taylor](#), [Robin Stone](#), [Diane Rossa](#) and Scott Vollmer

Formal Learning Initiatives:

- Workforce-related tours/immersions
Jake Taylor, Diane Rossa and Robin Stone will work on this initiative
- Collaborating with the JVS Network
- Working for Alignment with Extended Learning Providers

Special Projects

[Alyssa Briggs](#), [George Bilokonsky](#), [Bobby Dinkins](#), [Jake Taylor](#), [Tim Sisson](#)

Special Project Initiatives:

- [Autonomous Soap Box Derby Car Project](#) - In beta testing. (George Bilokonsky, Alyssa Briggs, Bobby Dinkins.)
- [Girls Who Code](#) - Outreach to encourage formation of clubs and sponsorship of a community of practice. Join now. To watch webinar. (Jake Taylor, Tim Sisson, Alyssa Briggs.)
- Teacher Professional Development Workshops - Sponsorship of selected teacher professional development workshops. [An Engineering is Elementary](#) workshop is scheduled for Feb. 20, 2018. (Tim Sisson, Toby Bothel, Kate O'Hara, Alyssa Briggs)
- [Dancing the Coding Bees](#) - Ready for adoption (Alyssa Briggs)
- CS For All - (Jeremy Shorr, Nigamanth Sridhar, Chelsea Cook and Tim Sisson)