

October 3, 2018
City Manager's Roundtable
Kirkwood Regional Center
Meeting time 12-1 pm.

Members present: Simon Andrew, Stefanie Bowers, Anthony Branch, Denise Brotherton, Joe Coulter, Charlie Eastham, Geoff Fruin, Henri Harper, Melva Hughes, Shannon McMahon, Royceann Porter, Mazahir Salih, James Throgmorton, Orville Townsend, Sr., Kristin Watson

Others present: Kristine Bullock, Joyce Carroll, Susan Craig, RaQuishia Harrington, Dave Jacoby.

Meeting overview

Presentation:

Ms. Kristine Bullock and Senator Dave Jacoby: discussed the Governor's STEM Advisory Council and the work it does. The Southeast Regional STEM Office is located at the Kirkwood Regional Center, which was built by Kirkwood Community College on land owned by the University of Iowa. The STEM Council is the only partnership in the US between a state university and a community college. There are approximately 600 high school students attending 15 "academies" at the Kirkwood Center. These academies allow them to earn college credits while in high school.

There are three main programs the STEM Council administers: STEM festivals, of which there is one coming up on October 10th; the "Scale-Up" Curriculum, available to Iowa educators at little or no cost; and paid externships for teachers, which allow teachers to bring real-world STEM experience to their classrooms. The October 10th STEM festival has over 700 students pre-registered, and over 1000 students are expected to attend. The University of Iowa's Advanced Driving Simulator will also be open during the festival. In addition to the three main programs listed above, the STEM Council offers grant funding, programming, supports for teachers K-12 classroom materials, and other resources to promote interest in and knowledge of STEM disciplines.

The Council tracks students who have participated in its programs. Statewide, students who participate score higher than non-participants on assessments in math, reading, and science; as well as expressing increased interest in STEM careers and more interest in staying in Iowa as adults. The score increase is more pronounced among students with disabilities, students of color, and female students. Ms. Bullock and Senator Jacoby concluded their program with a tour of the Kirkwood Regional Center.

Remarks:

Mr. Orville Townsend, Sr. commented that he found the City clean, quiet, safe, and growing, and wanted to commend City staff for their role in making Iowa City a good place to live and work.

Mr. Joe Coulter accepted the Indigenous Peoples Day Proclamation from Mayor Throgmorton and will attend the signing of the corresponding statewide proclamation on Monday. He noted that it is something to be proud of that Iowa City was the first in the state to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day.

Ms. Susan Craig announced that information on how to get a library card is now available in French, Arabic, and Spanish. A brochure in Swahili is currently being proofread and will be published soon. Ms. Craig also discussed the multi-disciplinary artist and activist Common's visit to Iowa City.

Mayor James Throgmorton mentioned that he signed a proclamation recognizing Common's work. Councilmember Rockne Cole will present it on October 6.

The next City Manager's Roundtable is Wednesday, December 5, 2018.
Notes prepared by Kristin Watson.