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**Power of Discovery: STEM2 Regional Innovation Support Provider (RISP) Overview**

The OC STEM Regional Innovation Support Provider’s vision is to create an after school network that advances youth development through STEM based learning by supporting youth serving organizations and by initiating large-scale change to STEM education throughout Orange County and its surrounding counties.

**Highlights from 2013-14 include:**

* The Power of Discovery: STEM2 through the OC STEM RISP has developed a network of 160 existing extended learning program providers that serve multiple grade levels throughout Orange County and its surrounding counties. The 160 sites represents 25 school districts, 400 educators, and most important 10,000 K-12 students. These statistics illustrate the impact of the network and its program support and professional development in just two years.
* Development of a steering committee with 15 members representing 13 school district and extended learning program providers. The steering committee developed the OC STEM RISP’s framework to the Communities of Practice.
* Three Communities of Practice meetings with 43 participating members representing 21 unique extended learning program providers and school districts.
* Two well-attended STEM Exploratoriums with over 18 different workshops offered through community partners.
* Twelve web-based STEM focused program support or STEM content development. Topics ranged from alignment with school day, engineering design process, to making.
* Development of a Tinker-Maker cohort representing 10 extended learning program providers and instructional day educators who were trained in basic Tinker-Maker design principles.
* Highlighted in a Working Paper: How Cross-Sector Collaborations are Advancing STEM Learning as one of 15 exemplars from around the country.

**Program Goals for 2014-15**

Building off the successes and lessons learned from years one and two, the 2014-15 year will focus on: **building staff capacity of STEM content and pedagogy through a more enhanced program support and professional development strategies**.

1. **Continued Recruitment of New Sites & Cultivation of Steering Committee**.
   1. **RISP Expansion**: Continue to recruit new districts and programs. This will include outreach, participating in other network meetings, and working with Jeanne Awrey to identify new perspective members. Facilitate joint planning efforts between Local Education Agencies and the Community Based Organizations in order to ensure coherence with implementation of STEM learning opportunities between regional expanded learning programs and the core instructional day.

**Goal**: Grow and maintain a diverse portfolio of expanded learning program providers representing at least **200** unique sites serving multiple grade levels and are geographically diverse.

**Objective**: By December 2015, the OC STEM RISP will increase its portfolio to **200** sites through outreach and relationship building.

* 1. **Facilitation and expansion of the OC STEM RISP Steering Committee.** For 2014-15, the meetings are anticipated to be built off of last year’s committee members. Meetings are quarterly and are coordinated and staffed by the Program Manager.

**Goal:** Expand committee members **20 plus** members to represent a diverse group of expertise, knowledge and support.

**Objective:** By September 2015, OC STEM RISP increase the number of members to represent diverse groups from informal, formal and afterschool.

**Key Person Responsible**: Program Manager

1. **Continued Cultivation and Growth of the Communities of Practice**. With over 30 sites represented as part of the peer-to-peer network, it will be critical to continue to support and nurture the community.

**Goal**: Facilitate on-going, local collaboration, and peer learning by convening local communities of practice consisting of participating expanded learning program providers.

* 1. **Objective**: By December 2015, the Communities of Practice will have met at least 10 times.
  2. **Objective**: By December 2015, the Communities of Practice will increase the number of participants to **50** members.
  3. **Objective:** Develop agenda for CoP meetings in 2015. Utilize Steering Committee members and community partners to support, train and expand members of the CoP.

**Key Person Responsible**: Program Manager

1. **Professional Learning/Professional Development:** Continue to leverage and expand the community partners and RISP steering committee to utilize their expertise and resources to develop programs in Orange County. Community partners have provided resources in-kind or at low cost, which has helped bring new STEM resources to participating extended learning program providers.

**Goal**: Identify and strategically facilitate on-going opportunities for key stakeholders/partners to enhance expanded STEM learning opportunities consistent with their organizational goals, and the goals of The Power of Discovery: STEM2 Initiative.

* 1. **Development of the STEM Technical Assistance Team (STAT)**. Each participating extended learning program provider will be invited to nominate one representative to be trained in the Dimensions of Success Program Planning Tool, and additional STEM teaching techniques as way to increase their individual STEM teaching capacity, while also being able to provide program support to other program providers seeking assistance. This type of team approach will allow the OC STEM RISP to continue its program support and professional development via web-based and in-person events, supporting the development of the STEM Program Plans and providing onsite observations and coaching while also being able to match needs with a trained STAT Member.

**Key Person Responsible**: CynDee Zandes, Program Manager

* 1. **Objective: Host Two OC STEM Explorations, “OC STEM FACTORY”.** The OC STEM RISP will host two events in 2014-15. The goal will be to expand events to occur quarterly in 2015-16.

**Key Person Responsible**: Program Manager

* 1. **Monthly Webinars.** This year’s webinars will be designed to be shortened from 60 – 90 minutes to 30 minutes. The concept is to cover a STEM topic or teaching strategy in 30 minutes. The “STEM in 30” series will be offered once a month for all network members. OC STEM will work with community partners to cover topics.

**Key Person Responsible**: Program Manager

1. **OC STEM RISP Website.** The website hosts a number of resources for the network including a calendar, resources pages, request assistance form, webinar library, and discussion board. The program manager will continually maintain and upkeep the website with the support of the VISTA member.

**Key Person Responsible**: Program Manager, VISTA Member

1. **Development and Support of the Tinker-Maker-Science Fair Cohort.** The cohort consists of 10 members representing instructional and extended learning program providers that were trained in basic Tinker and Maker design principles. Part of the cohort’s role for this year will be to introduce Tinker and Maker design principles into their programs but also look for opportunities to increase awareness within their programs and school districts. The OC STEM RISP will also highlight them in web-based and in-person STEM professional development opportunities.
   1. **Objective**: By September 2015, the OC STEM RISP Tinker-Maker Cohort will have provided two workshops and one webinar focused on introducing Tinker-Maker design principles to 50% of the extended learning program providers within the OC STEM RISP network.
   2. **Development and Implementation of STEM Challenges to support students in developing Science Fair projects.** As a project of the OC STEM-MakerEd VISTA Members, these are monthly STEM and Maker focused themed challenges with activities that can be adapted for as young as preschool through high school age students. All activities were designed as low-cost but engaging for student learning. All activities will be available on the OC STEM RISP website. Challenges will be designed to help students develop confidence and excitement in participating and enhancing their science fair projects.

**Key Person Responsible**: VISTA Member