Rhode Island STEAM Now Coalition

Vision & Mission

PROPOSAL: Create a non-partisan state level Governor’s STEAM Council comprised of representatives from education, business, and government and supported by the Rhode Island STEAM Now Coalition that will have the leadership, support, coordination, and funding to develop a statewide STEAM Plan for Rhode Island.

The Rhode Island STEAM NOW Coalition is a broad alliance of nearly 250 individuals representing business, education, and government agencies coordinated by the Rhode Island STEM Center at Rhode Island College advocating for the improvement of STEAM education at every level across Rhode Island.

Our VISION:
To develop a STEAM literate population in Rhode Island who will possess the skills to become productive citizens in the 21st century and who will have the capacity to contribute and invigorate the Rhode Island economy.

Our MISSION:
1. To advocate and present the case for the creation of a non-partisan STEAM Council at the state level that will make STEAM policy recommendations to achieve the following goals in Rhode Island:
   • Increase the number of students who pursue degrees/careers in STEAM fields;
   • Expand and broaden participation in STEAM; and
   • Increase STEAM literacy for all students regardless of career paths.
2. To serve as a complementary organization to the proposed Governor’s STEAM Council by providing information to Council members and making recommendations that have been generated from the STEAM-related fields in which Coalition members work.

Accomplishments

• Developed a survey that was distributed to business/industry in Fall 2015 that will collect data on current STEAM outreach and identify the needs, challenges, and possibilities associated with partnerships between business/industry and education.
• Developed a survey that will be distributed to schools in Fall 2015 that will collect data on existing STEAM programs and identify the needs, challenges, and possibilities for future programs and partnerships.
• Implementing the organizational framework and plan for the Rhode Island STEAM Now Coalition.
• Developed a one-page description of the coalition with objectives for the proposed statewide council.
• Increased the number of Rhode Island STEAM Now Coalition members since our establishment in May 2014.
• Proposed a structure and governing framework for the proposed Rhode Island Governor’s STEAM Council

Contact Us
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Proposed Objectives of the RI Governor’s STEAM Council

Phase 1

1.1 Establish a framework for a **statewide infrastructure** with a statewide STEAM summit.
1.2 Develop a **statewide plan** for STEAM education including education goals and recommendations for policy.
1.3 Build **partnerships between education and industry** with a common agenda.
1.4 Identify **funding** streams for seed money and sustainability.
1.5 Increase **public awareness** of STEAM.

Phase 2

2.1 Build shared system of **professional development**.
2.2 Support evidence-based **quality STEAM learning experiences** throughout state.
2.3 Establish effective **shared evaluation** practices to measure success.
2.4 Facilitate access to **equipment, mentors, training, and research opportunities**.
2.5 Enhance **knowledge sharing** across the state.
2.6 Ensure **equitable access** to education, programs, and professional development.

Phase 3

3.1 Develop and support **regional networks** that can pilot programs and share best practices.
3.2 Create **teacher education connections** between pre- and in-service teachers.
3.3 Establish **regional learning centers** for the dissemination of best STEAM practices.
3.4 Increase the availability and teacher development for enhanced **use of technology**.
3.5 Develop and implement a plan for pre- and in-service **educator externship program with industry**.

Phase 4

4.1 Recognize and reward **exemplary partnerships**.
4.2 Document and disseminate **successful case studies**.
4.3 Evaluate outcomes and determine **strategic next steps** for implementation.

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