

## NOAA Education Council Meeting

Date/Time: June 20, 2012 (1:00–4:00 pm)  
 Location: SSMC3, Room 14836  
 Dial-in: 866.901.0711  
 Passcode: 8134683  
 Contact: Erin Sams (202) 482-9183

Adobe Connects Link to Meeting: <http://connectpro46305642.adobeconnect.com/edcouncil/>

**\*\*Important Note Regarding Audio:** Unless you have a PC headset with a microphone, please remember to mute or turn off your computer speakers when you call in to avoid sound interference. If you have a PC headset, you will be able to connect directly through your computer and participate in the meeting as normal, without needing to dial the number above through your phone. Detailed instructions on how to set up your audio in Adobe Connects are available here: [http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/council/Audio\\_AdobeConnects.pdf](http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/council/Audio_AdobeConnects.pdf)

## AGENDA

1:00 Welcome/Opening Remarks (Christos)  
 1:10 Julia Gumminger - Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (*Input requested*)  
 1:40 Andrea Falken - Green Ribbon Schools - Marlene Kaplan (*Input requested*)  
 2:10 Break  
 2:20 Peg Steffen - Digital Badge Update (*Informational*)  
 2:40 Sarah Yue - Science Olympiad Partnership (*Input Requested*)  
 3:10 Vote: Taking July or August off from monthly meeting  
 3:20 Updates and Announcements  
 3:40 Adjourn

## Next Council Meetings:

**July 18, 2012**  
**August 15, 2012**  
**September 19, 2012**

## Attendance

**In person:** John Baek (JB), Christos Michalopoulos (CM), Bronwen Rice (BR), Ron Gird (RG), Judy Koepsell (JK), Peg Steffen (PS), Sarah Yue (SY), Carrie McDougall (CMc), Peg Steffen (PS), Paulo Maurin (PM), Lindsey Knippenberg (LKn), Maria Murray (MMu), Michelle Moore (MMo), Nina Jackson (NJ), Andrea Falken (AF), Rochelle Plotchak (RP)

**On the phone/chat:** Paula Keener-Chavis (PKC), Lisa Iwahara (LI), Stephanie Bennett (SB), Kate Thompson (KT), Atziri Ibanez (AI), John McLaughlin (JM), Eric Hackathorn (EH), Sarah Schoedinger (SS)

**Presenters/guests:** Julia Gumminger (JG), Andrea Falken (AF), Peg Steffen (PS), Sarah Yue (SY)

## Welcome/Opening Remarks (CM)

- CM: Louisa returning to OED on July 1<sup>st</sup>, Marlene on vacation
- CM represented Louisa at CoSTEM meeting; OMB sent memo describing STEM definitions and efforts to promote STEM education; John Holdren along with head of NSF will meet with OMB to discuss *not* using OMB strategic plan to determine future fiscal-year program budgets; Kathy Sullivan encouraging consideration of STEM education initiatives
  - PKC: not following
  - CM: OMB will include recommendations for STEM education investments in strategic plan evaluation metrics and there is a fight right now to make sure OMB does not use this as an excuse to not fund STEM and environmental education
  - PKC: how does this affect programs who did not participate in the recent survey?
  - CM: no positive or negative ramifications right now, but stay tuned
  - CM: ultimate goal is to promote goals of NOAA's NGSS, and this nuance has not yet been addressed to our satisfaction
- EPP & Hollings Scholars orientation was completed successfully a few weeks ago

### **Julia Gumminger - Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (*Input requested*)**

See PowerPoint.

- CM: as Julia mentioned, we have already agreed to host a one-day event sometime in the fall through the Office of Education and are encouraging anyone who is interested
- PM: are the families local or do they come from all over the US?
  - JG: most families travel within a 3-4 hour drive, but the distance families travel varies quite a bit; most of the time the kids come to the programs because they are excited about the subject area
  - JG: We're talking about the "Extended Programs" today, but we're also increasing the Science & Technology programs.
- MMo: How do people know about your programs?
  - JG: The students are tested to be determined as gifted and we distribute this information to families based on their involvement with our programs
- FN: what would be our cost?
  - JG: Staff time and location
- PM: What is planned for the current program?
  - CM: We are planning a one-day event at the Science Center with hands-on activities, including some from CoCoRaHs, discussions from NOAA professionals about their careers, a visit to the Okeanos Command Center, etc.
- Website for CTY info: <http://cty.jhu.edu/>

### **Andrea Falken - Green Ribbon Schools (*Input requested*)**

See PowerPoint.

- CM: Form for setting up GRS webinars will be sent around to the Council
- CM: what's the best way to coordinate with you on the Speaker's Bureau?
  - AF: The chief agencies are HHS, DOI, EPA, NOAA, so I send an email to folks and they spread the word
  - BR/CM: Office of Education can serve as the conduit within NOAA
- CM: Several states are not green yet; we have national networks, so if you are willing to enlist our help in turning more states "green" we can try to help
  - AF: once the state education agency realizes that they don't have to do the legwork in getting GRS going in their state, they are much more willing to take on the role of having GR schools; 33 states is pretty phenomenal, especially considering the ...weren't out yet this year
- AF: the science chiefs will send out this information; I have a science/facilities contact in each of the states
  - Limited web access for some for webinars, but a diverse audience
- PS: what's the relationship between this program and the Parks Service "Green Schools" program?
  - AF: This program intends to provide coherence between health, environmental education, impact & efficiency – combining three categories that are often not represented together within other programs
    - Many states took what some non-profits were doing and used the GRS award as an additional recognition
- FN: How many green schools are in the states? And of the schools that are winners, what is the value or benefit?
  - AF: close to 200 expected for next year; property value is higher where GRS are located and it often allows the schools access to additional educational & technology resources; similar prestige to Blue Ribbon Schools
- CMc: Storm Ready & Tsunami Ready programs may be good for your webinar series
- Website for Green Ribbon Schools: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html>

### **Peg Steffen - Digital Badge Update (*Informational*)**

See PowerPoint.

- CM: will the Badge be a set of introductory materials to review, or will there be activities that the students will be tested on later?
  - PS: The badges are set up differently, from simple testing to student having to put together a report to complete the badge;
  - CM: conceptually, exposure to content?
  - PS: Yes, and there is opportunity for individual teacher-student interchange which results in higher success rates
- CM: We have to think about who we should reach out to (ex. Fisheries biologists with busy schedules and multiple degrees); if there is any way we can go to the lines and get the top 2 or 3 careers in each to develop badges reflecting those careers, this would be a great integration
- FN: Hands-on computer tasks report shows that girls did much better on hands-on assessments and boys did better on simple pencil & paper testing; something worth looking into
- AI: Why did you separate marine life?
  - PS: just picked themes from NOAA Education website; also we were trying to find themes that fit within all NOAA line offices and the major programs within each. No badges have been made yet, so these are all up for being changed.

- EH: Plans to integrate badges into the NOAA Education website?
  - PS: this collection will probably reside on the Boise State website due to the Analytics server that we're going to be tied to; it will be difficult to move them over to the NOAA site
- AI: Eric's idea is a good one, and that will help promote NOAA
- PM: we'll be helping to guide the content development, so what we promote and how NOAA is presented is up to us
- RG: Is this for high school students only? No adults?
  - PS: Yes, only high school.

### **Sarah Yue - Science Olympiad Partnership (*Input Requested*)**

*See PowerPoint.*

- CM: Science Olympiad students have already contributed greatly to NOAA website visitorship during the months leading up to the National competition
- RG: one benefit I would hope the students gain is awareness of the Storm Ready, Weather Preparedness concepts that we're trying to introduce on a wide scale; if we can do that, we can focus on the Storm Center as a NOAA resource
  - SY: the more "real" the information we can provide, the better!
- JB: Can you say a little bit more about the rules?
  - SY: SO puts out a Rules Manual every year ; States and teachers use rules to create the template for the state and regional competitions; topics, number of participants, list of resources to use for preparation; effort to make sure competitions are consistently managed; example: Meteorology resources sponsored by NOAA provide lists of usable resources for students to review for competition
- FN: The topics part of the rule set should be matched on our website so that our resources are more easily found
  - SY: The web resources as organized right now are in broadly grouped collections, and there are pros and cons either way to keeping the site as-is or reorganizing it to fit the SO framework; site focuses more on large-level diverse collections
  - FN: If we could find more specified resources, we would do this for the fall?
  - SY: Yeah, the rules for 2013 are all but finalized, so we could look at that now. Feasibility will depend on resources we are able to target (Ed Council community) and the granularity of your recommendations.
  - SY: AMS interested in have resources available, iTunes University a possible avenue as well
- PM: Have they been guided to any of the Data in the Classroom modules?
  - SY: Yes, the Water Quality module is used in one component and others may be able to be incorporated.
- PS: From an administrative point of view, we gave them money, right?
  - SY: Yes.
  - PS: Did we establish and MOU with them and require that our logo be used on the website?
  - SY: Louisa signed a partnership agreement letter on behalf of NOAA Education that gives them permission to use the logo
- CM: It may be a good idea to establish an MOU, even though it takes some time.
- RG: Logo became an issue recently with a meteorology program
- FN: Is there an expedited process for establishing partnerships and MOUs?
- SS: there is no expedited process for an MOU!
- CMc: There has to be a partnership!
- AI: Sarah, can you talk more about the state level work (volunteer support, etc.)?
  - SY: 4 employees at the national level, states sometimes provide compensation for people but most are volunteers; coordination is loose largely due to the volunteer structure of the organization
  - SY: I can get a list of the state coordinators and make that available to the Council
- Science Olympiad Partnership website: [http://www.education.noaa.gov/Special\\_Topics/Science\\_Olympiad.html](http://www.education.noaa.gov/Special_Topics/Science_Olympiad.html)

### **Updates and Announcements**

- VOTE: for decision to take a month off for the summer (July/August/neither)
  - July off: xxx in the room, xxxx on the phone = **7 total**
  - August off: xxx in the room, x on the phone = 4 total
  - Neither off: no vote taken
  - Decision: Council will take July off from the monthly meeting; meetings will resume on August 15<sup>th</sup>
- RG: Lightning Safety Awareness Week, info here (press release):  
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/tbw/TopNews/PDF/2012LightningSafetyAwarenessWeekKick-off.pdf>