Exploring STEM: What it Means to Our Community
Central Oregon Luncheon
Monday, September 19th

11:15 AM  Lunch
11:30 AM  Welcome
          Beth Unverzagt, OregonASK Executive Director
          Central Oregon STEM Hub Overview
          Whitney Swander, Central Oregon STEM Hub Director
11:45 AM  Oregon’s STEM Strategic Plan
          Mark Lewis, Chief Education Office
12:00 PM  Local Business & Industry Connections
          Heather Ficht, East Cascades Workforce Investment Board
          Table Discussion
12:25 PM  Utilizing Informal Time & Space for STEM
          Christine Cid, High Desert Museum
          Kecia Kubota, Camp Fire Central Oregon Executive Director
12:35 PM  Table Discussion
12:50 PM  Closing

Central Oregon STEM Hub
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in the heart of Oregon
Exploring STEM Central Oregon Luncheon Partners

The National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education, and Families has over a decade of experience and knowledge working with cities and municipal leaders to help strengthen local efforts to create, expand and improve afterschool opportunities and build coordinated citywide afterschool systems. As part of this work, the Institute for Youth, Education and Families produces an online resource for Small Cities Afterschool, as well as offering a broad range of action kits, toolkits, strategy guides, webinar archives, and other resources that provide municipal leaders with practical ideas for supporting children and youth in the afterschool hours.

As part of the National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education and Families initiative to support Afterschool and Summer Learning, Oregon Afterschool for Kids (OregonASK) was awarded a small grant to work on informing and engaging more municipal leaders in the issues surrounding afterschool. Thanks to this grant, OregonASK is working with regional STEM Hubs and partners to host discussions about the importance and impact of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) on our communities.

OregonASK previously partnered with National League of Cities in 2012 to host a Mayoral Summit, bringing together mayors from around Oregon to discuss the importance of Afterschool. In 2014, OregonASK received funding from Noyce Foundation to focus work on building and implementing STEM Systems. Over the last three years, we have been participating with the network of budding STEM Hubs to connect local STEM partners and informal educators. As the convening organization for the Oregon Girls Collaborative, we hosted a Collaboration Conference, distributed mini-grants to girl-serving STEM programs and facilitated regional forums around the state focused on Exemplary Practices for Engaging Underserved Youth in STEM. We also provide 19 differentiated STEM trainings to educators around the state, including specific content training and general STEM approaches for informal educators.

Central Oregon STEM Hub is a program of the High Desert Education Service District and one of 11 organization’s statewide which seeks to elevate and expand STEM learning opportunities and career pathways. The Central Oregon STEM Hub is cultivating a vibrant network of partners from K-12 schools and higher education, out of school time providers, community institutions, and business and industry. Through this network, collectively, we are aligning and enhancing opportunities across our diverse, STEM-rich region, so that all learners may become innovators, critical thinkers, and proficient problem solvers ready to solve problems that matter.

We thank you for being a part of the conversation as we bring together community programs, K-12 educators and administrators, workforce representatives, and municipal leaders to work towards an aligned system of support that will help meet the needs of stakeholders in each community.