

# Learning From Each Other: STEM in two States



# Iowa and Massachusetts

- Larisa Schelkin, Global STEM Education Center, Founder and Executive Director
- Jeff Weld, Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council Executive Director
- Isa Zimmerman, MA and Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council

# A little pre-history...MA.1

Starting in the mid 1990's:

- STEM professionals/ STEM corporations/ workforce development professionals realized there is a real shortage of skills/ workforce
- STEM professional organizations expressed concerns re: a shortage of STEM-ready-workforce & diversity in STEM workforce

# A little pre-history...MA.2

- Strong reflections in Massachusetts (engineering and science professional Societies; workforce development professionals; training and education professionals in STEM corporations)
- Beginning of STEM Pipeline movement in Massachusetts in late 1990-early 2000 - STEM professionals and K-20 education - together ( a LOT of work from 1999-2003)
- NSF responded by SMET funding (late 1990 - early 2000) (there was no STEM back then, it was SMET)

# A little pre-history...MA.3

- Beginning of a plan under aegis of UMass Pres Office

First MA STEM Summit in 2003

- MA STEM Caucus in the Legislature
- MA STEM Pipeline Fund and MA STEM Network

# A little pre-history...IA

- The IA. Math/Science Partnership
- Its evolution to State STEM coinciding with NGA highlighting MA model
- Meeting of two members simultaneous at NASSMC.

# A little history

- MA Council created by executive order, end of 2009
- IA Council created by executive order, 2011
- MA Council member appointed to IA, 2011, reappointed 2013

# Agreements

- To share materials, plans, ideas with proper attribution
- To avoid mistakes
- To appoint a member in common



# Shared resources

- The state STEM plans
- Ideas about website development
- Ideas about process, structure & planning

# Consequences

- Learn from the other's experience
  - One plan led to another
  - Lieutenant governors providing leadership
  - Regional networks → Regional hubs
  - STEM Summits

# Ideas shared

- Museum education in STEM; out of school STEM; Informal STEM learning
- Teacher preparation
- Advocacy strategies
- Organizational arrangements

# Lesson learned

- It is about
  - people and relationships
  - two way generosity
  - not duplicating unnecessarily
  - building on success
  - Exploring/filling gaps

# Contact us:

- [larisa.schelkin@globalSTEMcenter.org](mailto:larisa.schelkin@globalSTEMcenter.org)
- [Weld@IowaSTEM.gov](mailto:Weld@IowaSTEM.gov)
- [ikz1@verizon.net](mailto:ikz1@verizon.net)