

Massachusetts STEM Advisory Council

One Ashburton Place, Suite 1403, Boston, MA 02108 | www.mass.edu/stem

Pioneer Valley STEM Network RFP Information Session

Friday, February 8th, 2019

10:30 – 11:30

1. In order to thoughtfully plan a collaborative proposal and secure needed letters of commitment, we need more time than the February 20, 2019, due date. Complicating the challenge of successfully meeting the submission deadline is the looming STEM Starter Academy grant and the Skills Capital grant due on February 28. In order to develop a thoughtful proposal, would it be possible for you to extend the submission due date?

A - We will share your concerns with Secretary Peyser and the STEM Council to see if we can be flexible with the due date and we will get back to you. Update: Approval was received to advance the submission due date. The new due date is now close of business on Friday, March 8, 2019.

2. Would Pioneer Valley include Berkshire Community College?

A - No, the Berkshire STEM Network already includes Berkshire Community College. However, if Berkshire Community College, Greenfield Community College or any other college or organization outside of your defined region feels more connected to the Pioneer Valley and would like to join your network, then they are welcome to do so.

3. Is there a website for the current Regional STEM Networks?

A - Yes, you can find information about the Regional STEM Networks at www.mass.edu/stem.

4. Do we know when STEM Week 2019 is taking place?

A - Yes, it will take place on October 21st – 25th, 2019

5. Are there times where all the existing Networks come together outside of STEM Week?

A - Yes, we bring the Regional STEM Networks together at least quarterly, and oftentimes more frequently, to inform them of statewide activity and current trends and to share best practices.

6. Has anyone from UMass Amherst contacted you to indicate their interest to apply?

A - No, we have not heard from anyone at UMass Amherst.

- 7. Does this grant support STEM activities and communication initiated by Mort Sternheim at UMass Amherst?**

A - No. Mort's activities are of his own doing independent of this grant.

- 8. If we can cobble together a proposal by the submission due date, even if the proposal doesn't yet include formal commitments by partners with whom we are in conversations, should we still send the proposal?**

A - Yes, please send as full an application as possible by February 20th, 2019. If you need an extension or are having difficulty submitting in full, please be in touch to discuss your individual situation. We also encourage you to state in your proposal your plans around Network elements not yet in place. **Update: Approval was received to advance the submission due date. The new due date is now close of business on Friday, March 8, 2019.**

- 9. Can the recipient of this grant award anticipate continued grant support after this funding period through either a contract continuation or a new request for proposals?**

A - The discretion on the distribution of funds within the STEM Pipeline Trust rests with the STEM Council. Funding for the Regional STEM Networks will continue if the Council finds value in the investment and if the Networks meet their benchmarks and regional goals.