



May 20, 2015

TO: Geena Davis, CCSWG Chair

From: Nancy Kirshner-Rodrigues, Executive Director

Commissioner Lupita Cortez Alcala

Commissioner Kafi D. Blumenfield

RE: STEM Subcommittee Update and Recommended Actions

Under your leadership the Commission has played an active role in supporting STEM awareness, education, and research initiatives. We are pleased to now have a STEM subcommittee to help support and oversee the work of the Staff.

Over the past two years, the Commission has partnered with the California Department of Education and CDE to host the STEM Symposium conference for 3,000 educators in the state. For each symposium the Commission developed short subjects with the California Research Bureau. The 2013 research focused on "California's Gender Gap in STEM Education and Employment" and for 2014; "MakeHERSpaces: STEM, Girls and the Maker Movement." In addition, the Commission staff partnered with the CA Library and the San Diego library to host an interactive share fair exhibit at the Symposium. The 2015 Symposium will be held in Anaheim, October 28-30th. http://www.stemcalifornia.org/pages/Californians_Dedicated_To_Educ

The Commission staff is actively working with Commissioner Cortez Alcala's team at the CA Department of Education and the CDE Foundation to maximize the "strand" at the conference focused on Diversity, Girls and Inclusion. We are seeking presenters and Commissioner Kafi Blumenfield has recently connected us with Janet Yamaguchi, the Vice President of Education for Discovery Cube Orange County to explore her ideas and recommendations. In addition, the CCSWG staff is assisting with outreach and recommendations for keynote speakers and would welcome other Commissioner recommendations regarding presenters and exhibitors.

In April, the Commission was invited to help increase public awareness and Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez participated in a press conference in Sacramento for the first Women and Girls in STEM Week (April 5-11, 2015) here in California. This effort was coordinated by Legislators and TECHNET and we are already involved in discussions regarding a significantly expanded statewide effort for 2016.



Moving forward, should our fellow Commissioners desire it, the Commission can plan an expanded role in convening leaders and resources to support California's women and girls pursuing STEM education and professional pathways.

Several key initiatives for the upcoming year have been identified that we believe the Commission should consider. The Commission has been asked to spearhead a California leadership committee for the national Million Women Mentors movement. This project is labor intensive but could give the Commission a significant profile across the State for an issue of great importance and enable us to work more closely with a new generation of women leaders in this field. A summary of the proposed effort is attached. Pending the funding to adequately staff this project, we recommend the involvement of the Commission. We believe that staff can partner with the members of the Alliance for Girls, ACCW, Technet, California Council on Science and Technology, and others to build out the leadership committee.

Nancy has met with the California Council on Science and Technology to explore additional partnership opportunities and is also hoping to have the Commission's support to launch an interagency taskforce to create a state government working group on Women & Girls and STEM.

RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS:

- A. Obtain Commission support Commit staff to help develop a California leadership committee for the national Million Women Mentors;
- B. Develop for Commission Approval, an annual work plan for the Commission around STEM initiatives; and
- C. Begin to establish an interagency taskforce to create a state government working group on Women & Girls and STEM.