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Demke Attends National STEM Meeting

Bismarck, ND – Gateway to Science Executive Director Beth Demke recently attended a national meeting of the STEM* Learning Ecosystems Community of Practice (SLECoP) in Cleveland, OH. The focus of the national meeting was “Living STEM, Communities at the Heart,” which was highlighted by keynote addresses from Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted and Jeff Weld, Iowa Governor’s STEM Advisory Council. Weld led the production of America’s Strategic Plan for STEM Education, which was released in December 2018 by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Demke serves as the president of the North Dakota STEM Ecosystem, a resource hub for quality STEM Education Resources available in the state of North Dakota. She also serves on an advisory council for the STEM Learning Ecosystems, a group that began meeting in April 2019 to develop a plan for the sustainability and future direction for STEM Ecosystems in the United States and around the world. Demke was part of a five-person team that presented this plan to the assembly. Demke stated, “America’s Strategic Plan for STEM Education identified participation of all Americans in STEM ecosystems as a top priority. It’s important that North Dakota and the perspective of rural states be represented in this effort, and I’m honored to have this opportunity.”

As the executive director of Gateway to Science, Demke has worked in the area of informal STEM education since 1994. North Dakota’s hands-on science center is located in the Frances Leach High Prairie Arts & Science Complex, 1810 Schafer Street in Bismarck, ND. The center has recently broken ground for their new facility that is expected to open in 2021. More information can be found at www.gatewaytoscience.org.

* STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)

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