

## **WSGC Fall Meeting Report**

### **Associate Director for Education and Outreach**

The year 2020 has provided us with a series of unforeseen challenges. A number of awardees in the 2019-2020 funding cycle were able to partially complete their requested programs, switched to on-line programming or returned funds allocated, as they were not able to complete their grant requirements, due to the ever evolving Covid-19 pandemic, which caused closures of schools, workplaces and community centers.

Programs under the purview of the AD for Education and Outreach include Precollege Awards, Public Outreach, Conference Host Award, Aerospace Jam and Embedded Teacher Program. The entire grant funding for these five programs is \$48,000, with a cost share requirement of \$26,500 and total project costs of \$74,500.

In the 2020-2021 cycle we intend to award five grants , keeping in mind that the funding is reduced by \$5000, yet we do have returned and unspent monies from 2019-2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

2019-2020 programs that were only able to complete partial programming were the following; Deke Slayton Museum Summer Camp, Lift-Off Program with the Texas Space Grant, had only one of two persons allocated, able to participate. BTCL moved their program to completely on-line and Central High School modified their budget in response to travel cancellations.

Aerospace Jam and Air Venture were cancelled while Crossroads was able to complete their program. The summer conference has been moved to 2021 with the same named host institution.

Aerospace Outreach(K-12) - \$10,000

Public Outreach - \$15,000

Conference Host - \$10,000

Aerospace Jam - \$6500

Embedded Teacher Program - \$6500

Total disbursements - \$48,000

Central HS STEM Aviation program was significantly challenged with the Covid-19 shutdowns causing flying restrictions and event cancellations. James Senft reported that they removed

from the budget the costs associated with travel to AirVenture and the Summer Space Grant Conference.

Despite the challenges presented, they were able to switch focus and report some successes;

Four students were able to pass the written exam portion of the FAA Private Pilot's License, the most ever seen in a single summer. One student received their Pilot's License and three more students were polishing up their flight maneuvers to be completed before the end of summer.

For the 2020-2021 cycle we are looking to making the Aerospace Jam, a virtual program, with all Space Grants hosting an NBA team participating. Very much like the AHL Education day annually or the Launch America Social for the Dragon DM2 mission and the Perseverance Launch.

We are looking at hosting a Statewide or Regional Space Day, based on the program I have been a part of since 1997 and more than 20 years with the Maine Space Grant. A typical Space Day event has approximately 2500 students at a local school, with keynote speakers and up to 40 presenters from Academia, Industry and Astronomy groups in 20 minute rotations.

Our AOP is looking to fund two Wisconsin Teachers to attend the SEEC (Space Exploration Educators Conference in Houston, Texas at Space Center Houston the first week of February.

This is the premiere aerospace educators' conference in the nation and has been in existence for 26 years; we have had teachers from Baraboo, Sheboygan, Milwaukee and Mukwonago attend at their own expense, while other Space Grants have supported teachers in their State to attend. We are proposing to support two individuals at \$1200 per teacher to support airfare, hotel and conference costs.

Our significant challenge for the remainder of 2020 and into 2021 of course, is how to reach our students and how to continue programming from a distance with no onsite programming allowed for the foreseeable future. We need to provide engaging programming on virtual platforms reaching as many people as is possible across the state.

Respectfully Submitted

Brian Ewenson