

Project Bulletin
(January to May 2022)

1. Project organization and planning

During this four-month period organizational activities included:

- a) Worked with the CT, ID, and MD State Library Agency partners to develop a 9-month schedule and application for the pilot libraries
- b) Convened regular Zoom calls with contractors, the Project Team and sub-team, Project Advisors, potential collaborators, and SLA Partners (CT, ID, MD)
- c) Prepared a project Communication Plan (e.g., internal project & external formative engagement of the library community) and commenced project publicity efforts with a May 5th session at the Connecticut Library Conference

Changes in project personnel

We are pleased that Ismael Mendoza (Bilingual/Bicultural Coordinator with the Idaho Commission for Libraries) and Ashley Sklar (Adult Services and Community Engagement with the Connecticut State Library) have joined the project. Sarah Post has left Cornerstones of Science and CoS is recruiting for a Community Engagement and Equity Specialist to replace her. Tandra Turner has left the Urban Library Council and Angela Goodrich is now our ULC contact.

2. Project glossary and framework assessment

- a) Produced multiple drafts of the project glossary. It establishes a common language to be used in all project materials. (Our long-term vision is that it could be used, adopted, and normalized by the library community and stakeholders (e.g., local government, community organizations, cultural/racial/ethnic groups, etc.).
- b) Relevant frameworks were assessed and used to inform the development of the first draft of the STEM Equity Framework. The purpose of the Framework is to articulate and guide the development of the STEM equity and literacy core competencies of public/county library senior management (e.g., library directors, library managers including department heads, branch managers, and assistant/deputy/associate directors, etc.). A special emphasis is assisting libraries, through partnerships with local government and community leaders, to better serve all members of their community. Randall and Hurley (CT State library) tested aspects of framework at the May 5th CT State library Association conference.

3. Project case studies & library tool kits

The project seeks to uncover and then build on the STEM and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) excellence in public/county libraries around the county. During the period work commenced on the following:

- a) Three library case studies to explore the leadership skills and competencies (and the structural supports) that enable libraries to create an equitable, accessible, and inclusive library that serves all members of their community. An appreciative inquiry approach is being used by

Project Summary: We seek to build the capacity of state, public and county libraries to serve as community catalysts for equitable STEM learning. This project was made possible in part by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (Grant # RE-250085-OLS-21)

STEM Equity Framework:
Building Equitable, Inclusive Library Services That Address Community Needs

Cathy Burack (formerly with the Brandeis University Heller School) to conduct interviews with library senior management, local government, and community partners.

- b) The Project Team and Advisors were engaged to identify exemplary library tool kits to understand best practices in presenting content to the library community. These insights will be integrated into the project's professional development materials.