



Call with Collaborative Leads on NGCP Partnerships

Thursday, 10/20/16 at 10:00AM PST/1:00PM EST

Participants:

- Linda Kekelis, California
- Esperanza Zenon, Louisiana
- Michelle Higgins, Arizona (via email)
- Erin Hogeboom, NGCP
- Jolene Gustafson, NGCP

Introduction to Partnership Package Discussion

- Erin: Thanked everyone on the call, all of the great feedback you're going to provide is really going to help drive the direction of this process. The agenda an intro and info, then dive into your reactions and discussion questions, time for open-ended dialogue, wrap up with actual action steps.
- Erin: National team have been discussing and brainstorming, often with Collab Leads, how best to ensure the sustainability of our network. These conversations informed the thought process around our development in partnerships. The number one thing driving efforts were organizations making requests, typically very one-way requests. The first goal of putting some kind of partnership framework in place was to make sure that these are true partnerships (benefits for Collaboratives).
- Erin: So we first started thinking about what it is we have to offer: we have a great platform for offering informational webinars, we have a unique network of STEM professionals and program providers, we have carefully curated literature that goes out, we have social media sites with significant following, and we have blog posting.
- Erin: Seeking from partners either reciprocal promotion for the NGCP network and our Collaboratives, or compensation for the time and resources it takes to perform that outreach, webinar, etc.
 - Current Partners:
 - Girls Who Code (non-profit)
 - littleBits (for-profit)
 - In discussion with:
 - Design Squad Global
 - Character Day
 - DiscoverE
 - Cents Movie
 - Smarticks
 - National Fluid Power Association
 - EnScholar
- Esperanza: Sent information about the Starfish Foundation, with Soledad O'Brien. Esperanza doesn't have a direct contact, but she may be able to get one from one of the individuals who joined the LA Leadership Team.



- Linda: It's really great to take this approach, having a rubric will help
- Linda: Long term, a lot of them are more programmatic, think about policy partnerships—even thinking about partnership with Girls Who Code, potentially around policy
- Esperanza: Maybe we have different levels of partnership—one could be affiliation, and then a larger partnership

Discussion Questions on NGCP Partnerships

- **What are your initial thoughts on NGCP formalizing its partnership process?**
 - Linda: Liked the idea and developing a rubric
 - Documenting at a meta level, what are we taking away from each step and having the time to step-back and think about what we're learning and how we want to make changes
 - Esperanza: Maybe we have different levels of partnership—one could be affiliation
- **What kind of organizations or companies do you think NGCP should seek partnership and then a larger partnership with? What are the characteristics you'd recommend we look for in a partner?**
 - Linda: Organizations where serving girls in under-resourced communities in particular (not just girls in general), with organizations that are collaborative as 'part of their DNA' as well
- **What kind of organizations or companies do you think NGCP should not seek partnership with?**
 - Linda: Would be cautious about for-profit for groups that are really expensive
 - Esperanza: Be careful about partnering with organizations that are not willing to operate with reciprocity—if the partnership really benefits them but there's not equal footing, there may be times where it's not always 50/50, but can't be all about them
 - Esperanza: Knowing something about their history and reputation, look for an established track record in serving girls, even if they're a start-up, gauge if they're on solid ground
 - Linda: Know that an org is doing good work and backed by evaluation, look for evaluation results—you could even ask; an initial 'not yet' could encourage them to start taking steps in that direction, having this in the rubric will help
- **What are your thoughts on the amount of partnerships that NGCP can have on a national level or how long they should run?**
 - Esperanza: Don't have more partnerships than you can maintain—only as long as they are productive, stay in the limit of what you can manage
 - Timeframe—some organizations will use longer time frames depending on the vitality of the organization; maybe the type of partnership changes over time



- **Are there any forms of promotion you think NGCP should hold proprietary and not extend to partners?**
 - Linda: the examples (social media, newsletter, e-blast, webinars, collaborative outreach) sound fine
 - If they're reciprocal—making sure that the reach is the same
 - In terms of cost, very generously thinking how much it costs on our end, including general operating costs as well—that this really is accurate—have someone on board with business background
- **What documents or safeguards do you think should be in place with these partnerships?**
 - Erin: we currently have:
 - MOU for no-cost partnerships
 - Contract for cost partnerships
 - Partnership package sheet
 - Things to develop:
 - Esperanza: Spell out the levels of partnerships: what is an associate v. partner
 - Linda: Rubric—something written down, be specific about who the right partners are and what are the reasons why
 - Linda on the NCWIT K-12 Partnership

Open Dialogue on NGCP Partnerships

- Comments from Michelle Higgins in AZ:
 - When national partnerships are made, it would be helpful to have a local contact, if there is one—Linda said it could be, but fine either way
 - Partner with the NABI, the National Alliance for Broader Impacts. This alliance pulls together university centers/individuals who work to match proposal PIs with outreach programs or venues to support the inclusive excellence, broadening participation, sustainability and persistence. I think there could be a lot of synergy. Susan Renoe (U of Missouri) is the Steering Committee Chairperson.
- Linda encouraged NGCP to not be under-valued on NSF grants

Wrap-up and Action Steps

- Esperanza will ask Fran about contact at Starfish Foundation
- Erin will do online research on the Starfish Foundation
- Erin will ask Karen for a connection with someone in NCWIT who can be a thought partner and provide sample rubric
- Erin will look into attending NCWIT conference per Linda's suggestion