

## **Network Advisory Board Members Present at Stem Summit**

Progress through Partnership was the theme of the 2017 Massachusetts STEM Summit at the DCU Center in Worcester on November 14. This year, members of the SE MA STEM Network's advisory board served as panelists during a break-out session entitled, "Developing and Maintaining Business Partnerships - Regionally and Locally". The session, attended by over 80 participants, highlighted examples of successful partnerships between PK-16 educators, faculty, administrators and business/industry leaders. Network panelists included: Rodney Clark, dean, Bristol Community College, Attleboro; Debra Garvin, education coordinator, Robbins Children's Program, Inc., Attleboro; Teresa Murphy, superintendent, Mansfield Public Schools, and Michael Tamasi, president/CEO, AccuRounds, Avon. Panel facilitators were Keith Connors, senior program manager, MA Department of Higher Education and Dr. Stacey Kaminski, executive director, CONNECT Partnership.

At the onset of the session, Mr. Connors provided pertinent context articulating the structure of Commonwealth's STEM Networks to the audience, while Dr. Kaminski followed with a video highlighting the SE MA STEM Network's 2017 initiatives including; the STE Practices Workshops, the Business & Education Alignment Meeting, the Work-Based Learning Seminar Series, and the STEM Expo.

During the panel discussion, Mr. Tamasi highlighted the importance of building partnerships with local school districts as a conduit for creating a talent pipeline to fill workforce needs, while Ms. Murphy shared examples of how her district conducted an inventory of family members who may be able to offer expertise and support to the schools, based on their own STEM career choice. Mr. Clark discussed the benefits of partnering with local businesses to promote STEM internship opportunities, while Ms. Garvin emphasized the importance of providing students with STEM experiences in PK.

We are eager to offer new series of professional learning programs to educators in spring 2018. Please visit our site and view our newsletter, the Petri Dish, for information about our programs and registration links.

Click [here](#) to see a video overview of the STEM Summit. The next STEM Summit is scheduled for November 14, 2018, at the DCU in Worcester.