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Fires Innovation Science and Technology Accelerator and the STEM Consortium Meet Today: FISTA, City of Lawton, Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce, Military Partners, Government Partners, and Local Nonprofits Collaborate for a Stronger Community

Lawton, June 12, 2023 — Today marked a significant milestone for the Lawton community as the Fires Innovation Science and Technology Accelerator (FISTA) and the STEM Consortium came together for a collaborative meeting. This meeting, attended by representatives from FISTA, the City of Lawton, Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce, military partners, government partners, and local nonprofits, aimed to foster a stronger community through collective efforts in innovation, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

FISTA, an influential player in promoting technological advancements and fostering entrepreneurship, joined forces with the STEM Consortium, a coalition of stakeholders dedicated to advancing STEM education and initiatives. Together, they discussed the potential for synergistic collaborations and outlined plans to propel Lawton's growth as a hub of innovation and scientific excellence.

The meeting attendees, recognizing the significance of collaboration and community engagement, emphasized the need to harness the collective expertise and resources available to them. By leveraging the combined strengths of FISTA, the City of Lawton, Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce, military partners, government partners, and local nonprofits, they aim to create a thriving ecosystem that supports innovation, economic development, and educational opportunities.

Dr. Krista Ratliff, President & CEO of FISTA expressed excitement about the meeting, stating, "This collaboration brings together key stakeholders who share a common vision for Lawton's future. By uniting our efforts, we can drive innovation, empower our local talent, and build a prosperous community that thrives in the rapidly evolving landscape of science and technology." "This partnership will undoubtedly create new opportunities for businesses, entrepreneurs, and skilled workers, positioning Lawton as a leader in innovation and technology."

The military partners present at the meeting reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the community's growth. Their involvement will play a vital role in bridging the gap between defense technology and civilian applications, fostering collaboration, and providing unique training and research opportunities for aspiring innovators.

Recognizing the broader implications of this collaboration, government partners expressed their dedication to creating an enabling environment for innovation and STEM education. By leveraging

their resources and networks, they aim to attract investment, facilitate regulatory support, and promote initiatives that nurture the local talent pool.

Local nonprofits, well-known for their community-oriented endeavors, highlighted the significance of inclusivity and ensuring equal access to STEM education and resources. Their involvement in this collaboration ensures that efforts are directed towards the betterment of all members of the community, leaving no one behind.

As this groundbreaking collaboration takes shape, stakeholders anticipate an exciting future for Lawton. The combined efforts of FISTA, the City of Lawton, Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce, military partners, government partners, and local nonprofits will drive innovation, foster economic growth, and empower the community to embrace the limitless potential of science and technology.

About Fires Innovation Science and Technology Accelerator (FISTA):

FISTA is a leading accelerator dedicated to promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, and technological advancements. FISTA provides a supportive ecosystem for startups and established companies, fostering collaboration and driving economic development in Lawton and beyond.

About the STEM Consortium:

The STEM Consortium is a coalition of stakeholders focused on advancing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and initiatives. The consortium aims to cultivate the next generation of innovators, bridge industry-academia gaps, and promote STEM literacy among students and the wider community.

Contact:

Dr. Krista Ratliff

President & CEP

FISTA

Office- 580-35FISTA

Cell- 443-257-6571

Krista@thefista.Com