2016 Review from Thomas Magaldi

Overall, I think you should be proud of what you have accomplished with very little resources. One of my concerns with STEM education and advocacy in the developing world is that there are too many organizations competing for limited resources. I advocate for a centralized advocacy/education effort to avoid waste. I think your efforts to codify the different education and outreach organizations in Africa are fantastic. I also like your idea of evaluating new organizations and ideas. Ultimately, these organizations need to be held accountable.

Here are my suggestions/questions?

1. While I enjoyed some of your work on Career Exploration for PhDs, I think it detracts from the main mission of advocacy from STEM education in the developing world. Perhaps it would be better to create a separate organization?

2. One challenge that I have found with groups started by students and postdocs is the problem of succession planning. Typically, a group of energetic postdocs and students start a fantastic group. When these students and postdocs graduate or move forward in their careers, these organizations either die or go into a long hibernation. What are your plans to ensure that the group sustains itself?