STEM Lessons and Activities to Implement at Home

In response to the sudden shift from classroom learning to at home learning, the STEM Council has launched Teachable Moment - a collection of lessons and activities that are right at your fingertips and easy to implement at home. Students, parents and educators will find free access to resources from STEM Scale-Up Program providers, direct links to our Pinterest boards and some of our favorite pinned activities, lessons from partners and much more.

Check out Teachable Moment today at: www.IowaSTEM.gov/TeachableMoment

Help spread the word! Share information about Teachable Moment and your experiences with the lessons and activities on our website using #TeachableMoment.

Fostering Equity in the STEM Classroom - Virtual Professional Development Workshop

Fostering Equity in the STEM Classroom is a professional development experience for educators, administrators and community members prioritizing equity, diversity and inclusion. Brought to you by the Governor’s STEM Advisory Council, this two-day workshop will be held virtually on June 18 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and June 19 from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM and will feature Aris Winger, Ph.D., co-founder and CEO of Mathematics Enrichment for Diversity and Learning (MEDAL). Three 60-minute webinars will be scheduled to follow the workshop.

With the belief that small changes compound to large transformations, this professional development aims to have participants think critically about their practice, commit to making changes and implement those changes in a way that is pragmatic and meaningful, culminating in a classroom experience where all students in their classroom will feel seen, valued and validated.

Licensure renewal credit is available at no cost, compliments of the STEM Council. Stipends totaling up to $300 per participant will also be available.

Register by June 5: www.IowaSTEM.gov/equityworkshop

NEW STEM Best Application Deadline - June 15

Due to the recent events of COVID-19, the Governor’s STEM Advisory Council will be extending the 2020-21 application deadline for the STEM BEST Program to June 15, 2020. Please know we are still here as a resource to interested applicants. The STEM Council will be hosting open Question and Answer sessions on the following dates:

April 22, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
May 5, 1:00-2:00 p.m.
May 11, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Please complete registration and you will receive an invitation closer to the selected event.

STEM Teacher Externships Available

There is still time to apply for a STEM Teacher Externship for the summer of 2020. Teacher Externships provide educators with the exposure to answer questions about real-world application, prepare students for careers they may have in the future, and improve educational experiences.

To apply, go to https://iowastem.gov/externships/apply. Or contact: Externships@IowaSTEM.gov for additional information.

2020-21 STEM Scale-Up Awards

STEM Scale-Up Award Letters for 2020-21 were sent on April 7, 2020. If you have any questions
Welcome NC STEM Board Member, Matthew Stephan

Matthew Stephan, a new member of the North Central STEM Advisory Board, believes that STEM is for everyone. “The STEM skills that we learn in school are essential to living an informed, healthy life,” says Mr. Stephan, “STEM is not just for experts.”

Mr. Stephan is a production manager at the Cargill Fort Dodge facility and has held various roles in his career including project and design engineering, production supervision and leadership. He speaks with students on careers and job opportunities at the local school districts, community college and career fairs. His advice to students is to work hard, listen to others and take on new challenges even if you don’t feel ready for them. He sees STEM everywhere in the modern world: “STEM is an integral part of our daily lives, whether it is: understanding the SCIENCE of how viruses work and why social distancing and handwashing make a difference; understanding the TECHNOLOGY of staying connected, even when we are physically distant; understanding the MATH of personal budgets, economies of scale, compound interest.”

A defining moment of his career was during the facility shut down during the Cedar Rapids Flood of 2008 when historic water levels damaged the Cargill facility. The facility had to be cleaned, dismantled, and repaired in only three months. “It was a lot of stressful days and long hours,” he says, “It was great to see how a team can come together around a common goal and be successful.” It is this team work that he enjoys most about his job including helping team members by removing barriers and coaching them to success, “The achievement is theirs, but I get to share in it.”

Resources and Opportunities

Fun at-Home STEM Activities from Iowa State Engineering Kids

Iowa 4-H and NASA Iowa Space Grant Consortium STEAM Academy Challenges

4-H At Home Learning Resources

For updates from the Biotechnology Outreach Education Center, visit: www.biotech.iastate.edu

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