

## Welcome to a New School Year! Start planning now for a STEM Festival or Family Math Night in your school or community.

The North Central STEM Region has resources to help you plan a STEM Festival in your community or put together a Family Math Night Event. We have Family Math Night Kits for checkout that serve over 200 students and their families. We also have AWIM, Pint Size Science and STEM in Action kits for [checkout](#). The NC STEM Region is available to partner with communities and schools in planning a Festival. The festivals bring business partners together with students and families to learn about what careers are found in the local workforce.



## STEM BEST Webinar, August 20

Since 2014, the STEM BEST® Awards have been helping schools create opportunities for students to connect what they learn in the classroom with real-world applicability and potential careers. Iowa public and non-public school districts and buildings serving students in grades K-12 are welcome to apply. Join us to learn more!

STEM BEST® Informational Webinar  
**August 20, 2019 3:30-4:30**

To join, go to: <https://uni.zoom.us/j/849600201> or dial in by telephone to (669) 900 6833, meeting ID #849 600 201. This webinar will be recorded.



Dr. Kelly Bergman  
Iowa State University  
1259 Stange Rd  
Ames, IA 50011-1002

Phone: 515-203-7247

Email: [kbergman@iastate.edu](mailto:kbergman@iastate.edu)

Website: [ncstemhub.iastate.edu](http://ncstemhub.iastate.edu)

## Interested in Professional Development in STEM Principals?

The Central Rivers AEA is partnering with the NC and NE STEM Regions in offering the course: Meeting the Needs of all Students through STEM Principals (Course #180263). The course will be offered in three locations, Clear Lake, Marshalltown and Cedar Falls. Strands available include:

- I have (or just received) a STEM Scale Up Grant
- What does STEM Integration Look Like (How to Integrate)
- Project-Based Learning(PBL)
- I am starting from scratch – HELP
- Maker Space
- Early Childhood STEM Connection

Participants can sign up for the following sessions:

Clear Lake Office: Sept. 19 and Jan. 24



## **STEM Teacher Externship: James Mills, Workiva**

This year is the 10-year anniversary of the STEM Teacher Externship program. James Mills of Nevada High School is one of 80 externs placed at workplaces across Iowa. The STEM Hub had an opportunity to visit Mr. Mills at Workiva and ask him some questions about the Externship experience:

### **What was your position or role at Workiva and what project(s) did you work on?**

I am an extern on the Site Reliability Engineering team. I am working on an app for automating a task for the team.

### **What skills did you utilize in your position? What new skills did you learn?**

I had to collaborate closely with members of the team, communicating my progress on a regular basis, asking for help when I encountered road blocks. I learned how to interpret documentation and apply code in new contexts.

### **What did you learn that you can take back to the classroom?**

I learned what project management looks like in a large team and what tools the computer science industry uses to collaborate.

### **How will you be able to improve students' educational experience after being a STEM Extern?**

By implementing the same tools and processes that I used in my experience at Workiva, I can prepare my students for the world of software development.

### **Did you have any "aha" moments during the Externship?**

I was surprised by the amount of reading and learning each software engineer had to do in order to solve problems every day. While college might have given them some context for these problems, the details of new software applications are always being developed. In order to be successful in computer science, you must always be curious and eager to learn.

Marshalltown Office: Oct. 29 and Feb. 20

Cedar Falls Office: Dec. 12 and April 4

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## **Want to get involved in STEM in Iowa? Register a booth at a STEM Festival**

Join us in sharing the excitement of STEM with students and families across Iowa. Register your booth [here](#) or reach out to the STEM Hub for ideas: [ncstem@iastate.edu](mailto:ncstem@iastate.edu).

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## **2018-19 NC STEM Advisory Board**

Lindsey Falk, St. Ansgar  
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Kerry Weig, Nevada  
Nancy Woods, Boone  
Michael Young, Ames  
David Zrostlik, Garner

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## **Upcoming Events:**

**August 27**

Application opens for Math Scale-Up

**September 13**

STEM BEST application deadline

**October 1**

Application closes for Math Scale-Up

**October 12**

NIACC Family STEM Festival, Mason City

**October 19**

Iowa Central Community College STEAMfest, Fort Dodge

STAY CONNECTED

