



**December, 2021**

North Central STEM Region

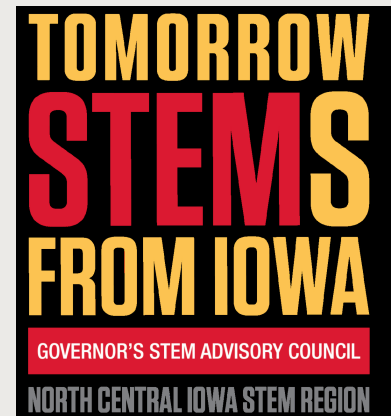
Monthly News

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Computer Science Showcase in NC Region

STEM Festivals Kick Off after Hiatus

STEM BEST® HD Deadline Jan. 3



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## **CSEdWeek Celebrated in North Central Iowa with Computer Science Showcase**

Computer Science Education Week (CSEdWeek) is an annual call to action to inspire K–12 students to learn computer science and bring quality computer science resources and learning opportunities statewide. The North Central STEM Region celebrated the week through Computer Science Showcases. Students demonstrated projects and activities to Computer Science professionals. Visitors included professionals from CUNA Mutual Group, Hy-Capacity, Metalcraft and Pratum who shared what they do in the field of computer science and what their day-to-day activities are and connected computer science curricula with real-world relevancy.

“Speaking and connecting with real computer scientists in Iowa demystifies the subject for students, and students realize they can have a computer science career right here in their community,” said Kelly Bergman, North Central STEM Regional Manager.

According to the 2021 State of Computer Science Education Report, 64% of Iowa high schools currently offer computer science—compared to 51% nationally.

"Computer jobs will only grow as we look to create efficiencies and automation and reduce the cost of repetitive processes. Developing and coding positions are going to be integral in making that happen," said IT Manager at CUNA Mutual Group and classroom visitor, Lynn Doane.

Thank you to the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Association of Business and Industry, Iowa Business Council and the Technology Association of Iowa for connecting Computer Science professionals with North Central schools and the STEM Council.



Jitterbug robots created and programmed by 4th graders at Green County Elementary in Jefferson.



Cassidy Albertson from Metalcraft demonstrates fun coding activities with 2nd grade students at Lincoln Elementary in Osage.

## Iowa Central STEAMfest in Fort Dodge

The North Central STEM Region kicked off in-person STEM festivals for the first time in two years with the Iowa Central STEAMfest in Fort Dodge. 5th graders from area schools visited the event during the school day. The event featured interactive, hands-on activities to boost children's interest in STEM and the Arts and future careers. Activities were presented by STEAM experts from business, higher education, community organizations and informal education venues.



**STEM BEST® HD (High Demand)  
Application Closes January 3**

## What is the STEM BEST® HD Program?

The STEM BEST® HD (High Demand) Program is designed to prepare students for the workforce by providing awards of up to \$40,000 to schools to develop curriculum in job sectors such as computer science, health professions and advanced manufacturing.

## How is the STEM BEST® HD Program different?

- The STEM BEST® HD Program provides up to \$40,000 in funding
- The STEM BEST® HD Program implementation timeline is 19 months (Feb. 2022 - Aug. 2023)
- The STEM BEST® HD Program has a lower cost-share requirement (2:1)

## Project Timeline

- October 18, 2021: Application Opens
- January 3, 2022: Application Closes
- Early February 2022: Awards Announced
- February 2022 - August 2023: STEM BEST® HD Program Planning and Implementation

## Examples of STEM BEST® HD Program Uses:

- Facility Upgrades
- Purchase of Industry Grade Equipment
- Acquiring Additional Space
- Time for Program Planning with Partners
- Travel Needs
- Integrating Curriculum into Existing Courses

Learn more today: <https://iowastem.org/BESTHD>

### Calendar of Events

January 3

STEM BEST® HD Program  
Applications Close

January 10

STEM Scale-Up Applications Open

January 14

NC STEM Advisory Board Meeting

### Contact Us

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### 2021-2022 NC STEM Advisory Board

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