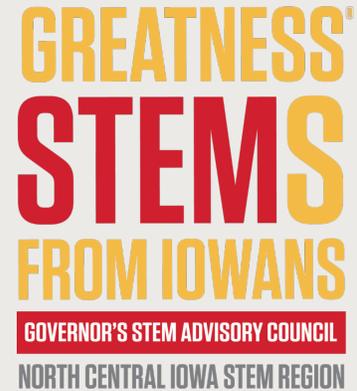




November, 2020

North Central STEM Region
Monthly News



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Now is the Time to Innovate! - Vision and Best Practices Education-Business Partnerships

On October 21, leaders on the topics of STEM Education and the future STEM workforce joined North Iowa Techtalk and North Central STEM to discuss innovative education-business partnerships.



Panelists, pictured from left, included Steve Doerfler, CEO of Metalcraft, Jeff Frost, Executive Director of Professional and Technical Education at Waterloo Career Center, and Barb Schwamman, Superintendent at Osage Community School District. Together they shared a vision of how education and businesses can work together to help kids connect to careers while also helping communities flourish.

A major theme the panelists agreed on was the need for the regionalization of efforts between school districts and business communities. "We can no longer live in a silo as a district. All the thing we want to do with our students, it just costs too much money to do things on your own. You need strong collaborative regional partners . . . including

Learn More About High School Registered Apprenticeships

Earlier this month, the Iowa STEM BEST team hosted a webinar on launching high school registered apprenticeships. The webinar contains all you need to know to get started. Featured speakers included Greer Sisson from the U.S. Department of Labor and Amy Beller, the Registered Apprenticeship Program Coordinator with Iowa Workforce Development as well as peers with first-hand knowledge on how to launch a program. Learn about how to get started, resources and funding.

Webinar

GREATNESS STEMS FROM IOWANS

Iowa STEM BEST Webinar:
The Scoop on High School Registered Apprenticeships

Featuring:

- Amy Beller,** Registered Apprenticeship Program Coordinator, Iowa Workforce Development
- David Ottavianielli,** Strategic Workforce Projects, John Deere
- Greer Sisson,** State Director, U.S. Department of Labor/Office of Apprenticeship
- Teri Vos,** Director, Work-Based Learning, a community collaboration based at Central College
- Andy Zimm,** Vocational Welding Trainer, Davenport West High School

STEM Essential Podcast

business partnerships,” recommended Jeff Frost. To do this, districts can pool their resources and businesses can help guide curricula and even donate equipment.

Barb Schwamman shared a best practice from the Osage Community School District where classrooms are paired with a business partner. Each semester the business visits the classroom for a half day and businesses learn about what schools are like today. Teachers then spend a day at the business where they get exposed to what happens at the business and the types of jobs in the community. “If you can pair up your classrooms and grade levels this way, you have this powerful K-12 job network of what is happening in your community,” says Ms. Schwamman. These partnerships can be developed with the help of the local Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development groups.

It is imperative that businesses partner with educators to show kids the opportunities that exist in their community. “If students see there are a lot of (STEM) opportunities within a local area, then they’re inclined to steer themselves to STEM. If they see those opportunities exist in North Iowa, there is more of a likelihood that they are going to stay here. They will get connected and get into those careers,” says Steve Doerfler. Mr. Doerfler also encouraged businesses to identify what skill sets are needed and then communicate this to educators. Business can help show kids what career path options look like.

Another theme that arose during the discussion was the importance of making these partnerships a priority within the school district. The district administration and superintendents are the change agents. With administration support, the program will be more sustainable.

Another takeaway was the importance of engaging students early in career awareness. Jeff Frost urges business partners to engage at grade levels from 5th through 12th grade. “Students don’t know what they don’t know. The earlier we connect students to careers the better chance they have of discovering what they want to do,” says Mr. Frost. Once businesses see they are creating a pipeline, they want in.

Finally, due to Covid-19 students are learning in a different way and they are not necessarily in the classroom five days a week. But Barb Schwamman is encouraging, “Now is the time to innovate, now is the time to try some new things. We need to band together and say we’ve got to do better for our kids to grow the whole area. Look at our whole region together. We have to bring in the jobs that help create the future.”

[Watch the Techtalk Here](#)

Season 2

You've heard STEM education is essential, but have you ever thought about why? Hear from leading advocates on how STEM is important in Iowa and what strong STEM education looks like. Included in the line up is the North Central STEM Advisory Board Member, David Zrostlik.

[Listen Here](#)

At-Home STEM Resources

The STEM Bingo Challenge Board contains simple activities designed to inspire kids! Download your copy here:

[STEM Bingo Challenge](#)

The STEM Council has partnered with the Iowa Department of Education, AEA Learning Online, Iowa PBS and the Iowa Reading Research Center to develop a curated list of resources for students, parents and educators.

[Teachable Moment](#)

Iowa State Fair STEM activities and demonstrations that can be done at home:

[Watch Demonstrations](#)
[Activity Guide](#)

2020-2021 NC STEM Advisory Board

Jerry Chizek, Manson
Lindsey Falk, St. Ansgar
Ashley Flatebo, Garner
Sara Nelson, Ames
Michael Pedersen, Marshalltown
Kristle Percy, Mason City
Kathy Rogotzke, Mason City
Sarah Rosenblum, Marshalltown
Kay Schmalen, Clear Lake
Camille Sloan Schroeder, Boone
Matthew Stephan, Fort Dodge
Kerry Weig, Nevada
Nancy Woods, Boone
Michael Young, Ames
David Zrostlik, Garner

Contact Information:

NC Regional Manager:

FREE STEM Programming for Iowa Educators Coming Soon

Interested in free STEM Programs for use in a school, after-school, club, library or other educational settings? The Iowa STEM Scale-Up Program offers high-quality STEM offerings for grades pre-K through 12. These programs go through a rigorous review process at both the national and state level. The available programs will be released January 4, 2021 and applications open January 15, 2021. Keep watch in this newsletter for more information.

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Upcoming Events and Deadlines

January 4

STEM Scale-Up Menu Announced

January 22

NC STEM Region Advisory Board
Meeting 12-2 PM

January 15

STEM Scale-Up Application Opens

Connect with us

