October, 2020
North Central STEM Region
Monthly News

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Cultivating a Skilled STEM Workforce -
Join us for Virtual TechTalk
October 27, 5 PM

North Iowans know the importance of STEM education and careers - and we’re ready for the next steps. Educators and businesses are working together in innovative partnerships to cultivate a skilled STEM workforce. How can this benefit North Iowa? How can your organization get involved? We’ve invited an expert group of panelists to share their insights on STEM education and work-based learning.

Virtual TechTalk
Preparing the Future Workforce through Innovative Education-Business Partnerships

Panelists:
Steve Doerfler
CEO at Metalcraft

Barb Schwamman
Superintendent at Osage Community School District

Updates for STEM Scale-Up Recipients

With all the challenges posed by the COVID-19 virus and the resultant uncertainties in education, the NC STEM Region would like to offer its support as educators adapt STEM Scale-Up programs or delay implementation of programs. Thank you for your patience around any delays in receiving your materials and pivoting to virtual training this year. Please reach out to the NC STEM Manager if you have not received your program materials by the end of October (kbergman@iastate.edu).

IT and Cyber Programs Earn 2020 STEM Council Seal of Approval

Two STEM programs developed by Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Dr. Doug Jacobson and his team at Iowa State
Jeff Frost  
Executive Director of Professional and Technical Education at Waterloo Career Center

Attendees are eligible for a Sphero Mini At-Home Learning Starter Kit giveaway! All attendees will receive a STEM thermos coffee tumbler.

Register Here

Statewide STEM Insights from New Advisory Board Chair – Kathy Rogotzke

The newly elected Chair of the NC STEM Advisory Board, Dr. Kathy Rogotzke, is serving her ninth year on the Board and has observed first-hand the impact of the STEM Council’s programs in the state of Iowa. “STEM is now largely recognized and I believe valued more than it was in the past (say 10 years ago),” she says. She sees the increase in knowledge about STEM, the interest in STEM and wonderful resources that the STEM Council provides as a success of the STEM Council programs and outreach. As Chair of the Mathematics, Physical Fitness and Wellness Departments at NIACC, she enjoys watching students grow and showing students that STEM underpins or is used in many other disciplines.

“While there has also been an increased awareness and interest in reaching underrepresented groups in STEM - I still believe we have a ways to go," she adds. Dr. Rogotzke has seen first hand the impact that outreach has on underrepresented groups. In 2013, NIACC held a Women in STEM event to introduce high school girls to professional role models and STEM careers. “After the event I received a letter about the impact that it had on a high school student who previously had not considered a STEM area of study but now was planning on it," she says. She is also an Advisory Council Member for the Program for Women in Science and Engineering at ISU. When asked what her message around STEM is to those she interacts with, she says, “Importance of STEM in our world—the joy of being involved in STEM; the interconnections in STEM.”

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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

At-Home STEM Resources

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

University received the STEM Council’s Seal of Approval. The Seal of Approval recognizes non-Council programs and events that are helping advance the goals of Iowa STEM.

The program, Security Literacy, is designed to help students become aware of cybersecurity issues and how to take steps towards mitigating these realistic security threats. The program contains materials for high school educators designed to be easy to understand and easy to use. The curriculum teaches students to relate information to real-world situations through class-based discussions, case studies, and classroom assignments.

The program, IT-Adventures, is designed to engage high school students in technology with curriculum that offers hands-on, real-world applications of STEM principles in a team-based setting. Students of all experience levels can join their school’s IT-Adventures Club, led by educators and mentors, and select the venture of their choice: robotics, smart-IT and cyber defense.

More information about the program can be found here as well as videos on Robotics, Smart-IT, and Cyber Defense!
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

E-mail: kbergman@iastate.edu
Website: ncstemhub.iastate.edu
Address: Iowa State University 1259 Stange Rd Ames, IA 50011-1002

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

October 19
Season 2 STEM Essentials Podcast Launch

October 22
NC STEM Region Advisory Board Meeting 12-1:30 PM

October 27
TechTalk North Iowa 5-7 PM

November 12
STEM Council Twitter Chat @IowaSTEM

November 17
NC STEM Region Advisory Board Meeting 12-1:30 PM

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