October, 2021

North Central STEM Region
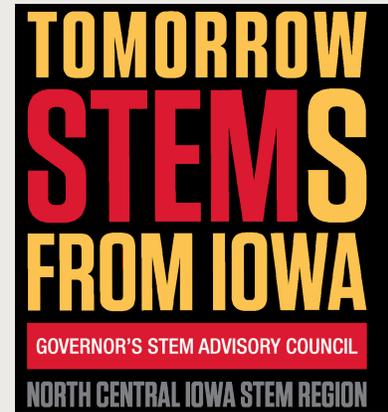Monthly News

TOMORROW STEMS FROM IOWA
GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL
NORTH CENTRAL IOWA STEM REGION

In this Issue

Apply for STEM BEST® HD (High Demand)

FRI Summit Highlights

STEM Board Member Shares Exciting Career in CS

STEM BEST® HD (High Demand) Application Now Open

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**

Attendees Find Inspiration at FRI Summit 2021

Inspired and informed was the sentiment by many of the over 700 attendees of the Future Ready Iowa Summit 2021 in Des Moines hosted by Future Ready Iowa and the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council.

Through panel discussions and breakout sessions, employers, educators, and state leaders shared paths forward and best practices around work-based learning and growing computer science in education.

"I would like to see my story become the common story for all Iowa students," said guest speaker Langston Saint, a ninth-grade student from Sioux City West High School, who discussed his computer programming journey in elementary school.

Keynote speaker Emily Calandrelli, host and co-executive producer of the Netflix Show "Emily's Wonder Lab," inspired the audience with her message on the importance of having diverse perspectives when it comes to solving problems. "It was really crucial that as a kid I was introduced to role models who kind of looked like me that had that interest in science and engineering," she shared.

For video and audio recordings from the Summit, visit **iowastem.org/archive**

NC STEM Advisory Board Member's Career in Computer Science and His Advice to Students

Mike joined the NC STEM Advisory Board in 2017. He grew up on a farm in rural Nebraska and has loved science and technology for as long as he can remember. With a technology career spanning startup companies (**Engineering Animation, Inc**) to global corporations (**Mechdyne Corporation**) and a short time at John Deere, Mike has most recently found himself working for Iowa State University as the Audiovisual Experience Manager, leading the way for audio visual solutions across campus. One thing he loves about his job is supporting the education of the next generation of Iowans and contributing to cutting-edge research efforts.

Fun Fact: When Mike was in 8th grade, he bought his first computer, an Apple IIc, and taught himself to program it!

Why did you decide to become a member of the North Central STEM Advisory Board?
I have always had a passion for science and technology. There was a summer honors program I attended during High School and it was truly instrumental in my personal development. In this amazing two week program each summer, I was able to take college-level classes in computer science, statistics, and social science. While supporting STEM at all levels is incredibly pragmatic for the future of Iowa and our country, I am a member of the board because I want to ensure young Iowans have the same opportunities I had to discover and nurture their own passions for STEM.

What advice would you give to students starting out in your field?
My main advice is patience. You have a long career ahead of you; you don't need to rule the world today. Find a mentor and continue to learn. Look for opportunities to work abroad or in a difference environment than you grew up in. Make time to volunteer. Pay off debt and save up money. Your career will turn out better with a little patience up front.

What action or "first step" can individuals or communities do to promote STEM?
Local schools are often looking for volunteers to assist with STEM activities. I would encourage people to reach out to a nearby school and just ask if there are any opportunities to volunteer with STEM activities. Additionally, I encourage people to reach out to extended family and close friends with children to promote STEM education and careers with those closest to them.

Calendar of Events

October 18
STEM BEST® HD Program
Applications Open

2021-2022 NC STEM Advisory Board

Jared Brown, Ankeny
Lindsey Falk, St. Ansgar

October 29
NC STEM Region Advisory Board
Meeting 10AM-12 PM

December 6-10
Computer Science Week

Contact Us

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Kathy Rogotzke, Mason City
Sarah Rosenblum, Marshalltown
Kay Schmalen, Clear Lake
Matthew Stephan, Fort Dodge
Yen Verhoven, Ames
David Zrostlik, Garner

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