



September, 2021

North Central STEM Region

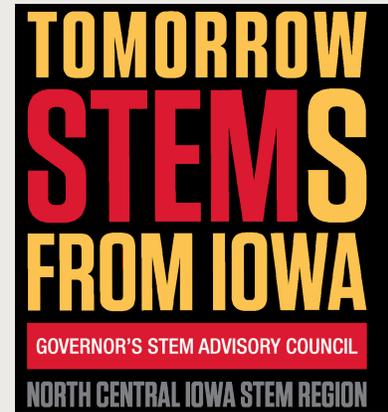
Monthly News

In this Issue

Nominate Teacher of the Year

Preparing Students for Lifelong Learning

STEM Checkout Library



Iowa STEM Teacher Award

Time is running out to submit a nomination for the 2021 Iowa STEM Teacher Award. **Nominate your favorite STEM Teacher** today and help the **Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council** and **Kemin Industries** honor six outstanding Iowa educators who provide excellent curriculum, encourage lifelong learning, and inspire passion for STEM beyond the classroom.

School Administrators, teachers, counselors, parents, students and STEM advocates are all invited to nominate licensed, full-time, PreK-12 Iowa STEM teachers in public or non-public schools. Nominations close Sunday, October 10.



Award Recipients receive \$1,500 for personal use and \$1,500 for classroom use. Find out more information on the IOWA STEM Teacher Award webpage:

<https://iowastem.org/teacheraward>

Extern Prepares Students for Lifelong Learning

Teacher Extern Mark Drier discovered striking similarities between young students and adult learners during his Iowa

STEM Teacher Externship experience with GTM Corporation, a fabrication and assembly facility in Waverly, Iowa. Drier worked alongside machining, fabricating, and engineering professionals who make steering assemblies for John Deere tractors. He also attended special certification classes offered to workers to help them improve job performance and increase their hourly wage.



While he attended the classes, Drier noticed something familiar to his students at West Fork Community School District.

“I observed the same struggles, conquests, and achievements I see in my classrooms,” Drier said. “I saw adults struggle with content, then work with other adults to try and figure out each knowledge check. Lifelong learning happens everywhere in any sort of educational setting”

Drier said his experience at GMT inspired the design of a project-based learning opportunity for his chemistry and physics classes. He plans to hold a competition for his students, challenging them to develop methods for quality assurance and determine if a product should be shipped to a customer or not.

“The lesson will provide a lot of freedom for the teams to determine the best method to solve the problem,” Drier said. “Working in a competition factor and tying it with revenue will give the lesson a real world aspect of the modern workplace.”

Teacher Externships give educators the ability to answer questions about real-world application, prepare students for careers they may have in the future, and improve educational experiences.

To find out more about the Teacher Externship program offered by the Governor’s STEM Advisory Council, visit iowastem.org/externships

STEM Checkout Library



Hands-on learning can sometimes require a lot of “stuff” for students to put their hands on. The North Central STEM-Hub is reopening its **STEM Checkout Library** this fall and educators of all kinds have the opportunity to reserve STEM educational kits to use in classrooms, libraries, homeschools, and anywhere there is a need for quality STEM education.

The new online inventory uses a free Airtable platform to provide an organized list of the available kits with links to detailed descriptions. Once they have decided which kit to check out, educators can fill out the **online form** or email the NC STEM-Hub (ncstem@iastate.edu) with their request

The STEM Checkout Library features kits that are easy to transport and come with teacher friendly lesson plans. Kits like “**Farmer Grady’s Challenge**” and “**Great Toy Design Challenge**” come with materials for up to 30 students to participate and are aligned with

STEM standards.

The library also includes robotics materials like the **Sphero BOLT packs** and **math night kits** supplying materials for activity stations for students and families.

The library is continuously growing so check back for more additions. Visit the **STEM Checkout Library webpage** for more information.

Connect with Us at Upcoming Events

The North Central STEM Hub would like to meet you. Connect with us at upcoming conferences. We will be attending the 2021 ISTS Fall Conference: Engaging in Equitable Science and the 2021 Iowa Library Association Annual Conference. Please stop by and say hello!

Calendar of Events

September 16

Transforming Education for the
Workforce Summit

September 24

NC STEM Region Advisory Board
Meeting 12-2 PM

October 10

Nominations for STEM Teacher of
the Year Deadline

Contact Us

NC Regional Manager:

Dr. Kelly Bergman

Phone:

515-203-7247

E-mail:

kbergman@iastate.edu

Website:

ncstemhub.iastate.edu

Address:

Iowa State University
1259 Stange Rd
Ames, IA 50011-1002

2021-2022 NC STEM Advisory Board

Jared Brown, Ankeny

Lindsey Falk, St. Ansgar

Ashley Flatebo, Garner

Teresa Green, Boone

Allyson Krull, Mason City

Sara Nelson, Ames

Todd Oesterle, Mason City

Michael Pedersen, Marshalltown

Kathy Rogotzke, Mason City

Sarah Rosenblum, Marshalltown

Kay Schmalen, Clear Lake

Matthew Stephan, Fort Dodge

Yen Verhoven, Ames

David Zrostlik, Garner

Connect with us

