The Iowa Governor’s STEM Advisory Council announced 4 North Central Iowa school districts will join or expand the STEM BEST® (Businesses Engaging Students and Teachers) + HD (High Demand) Program to provide students with real workplace experiences. The program helps introduce students to businesses and career opportunities in Iowa, while also gaining career-ready skills. Including the latest honorees, 155 partnerships have been created or expanded since the STEM BEST Program launched in 2014.

The STEM BEST + HD Program encourages teachers and industry professionals to work side-by-side to develop a work-based learning model that incorporates STEM subjects like mathematics and science with experiential learning opportunities to emphasize high-demand skills for the workplace. The Council’s investment of professional and financial support can be used for curriculum development and coordination, educator training and development in workplace-classroom integration and preparing work-based learning environments.

“The STEM Council is driven to connect schools and workplaces for the benefit of both youth and employers, and the STEM BEST + HD Program is a signature vehicle for that goal,” said Jeff Weld, executive director of the Iowa Governor’s STEM Advisory Council. “This latest expansion approaches a tipping point where career-linked learning is becoming the norm rather than the exception in preparing students for future Iowa careers.”

The STEM Council Executive Committee reviewed and approved 37 new or expanded partnerships supported by guidance, collaboration and financial
investment of up to $40,000 each.

The 2023 STEM BEST + HD Program awardees are:

- CAL Community School District
- Fort Dodge Community School District
- Ogden Community School District
- Osage Community School District

To be considered for a STEM BEST + HD Program award, applicants were required to submit a comprehensive proposal that incorporates rigorous and relevant STEM curriculum, includes valuable partnerships with community businesses or organizations, aligns with STEM goals, addresses sustainability of the model program and evaluates the program’s effectiveness.

For more information on the STEM BEST + HD Program, please visit https://www.iowastem.org/STEMBEST.

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The NW & NC STEM Region & Prairie Lakes AEA are hosting a STEM Scale-Up Application Workshop

Learn about the Scale-Up Programs, ask questions, and fill out your applications!

February 13, 2023
4:30-6:00 pm

Pocahontas AEA
500 NE 6th St.
Pocahontas, IA 50574

Registration Link:
https://bit.ly/3XNA9x7

Registration Closes February 10, 2023
Scale-Up Program Application Reminder

*Thirteen programs offer hands-on STEM experiences to PreK-12 students for 2023-2024 academic year*

The Deadline for Scale-Up applications is February 28th at 6pm. Thirteen programs are available to offer hands-on STEM experiences to PreK-12 students for 2023-2024 academic year. Be sure to apply soon if you are interested!

CGA’s Engineers Week School/Student Challenge

Are your students up for a challenge?

Do you want an opportunity to get $500 for your school?

To celebrate Engineers Week (February 19th-25th), our engineers would like to encourage students at YOUR SCHOOL to participate in an engineering activity! This activity is appropriate for Grade Levels 3-12 and should take 45 minutes or less. In return, your school will be put into a drawing for $500 to be put toward STEM activities at your school*!

Three CGA Design Engineers made a quick two-minute video to teach your students how to do this activity! View it here: [https://youtu.be/XVCrRr3Wicw](https://youtu.be/XVCrRr3Wicw)

Upcoming STEM Events!

February 10 Scale-up Proposal Workshop Registration Deadline
February 13 Scale-Up Prop Workshop
February 19-25 CGA's Engineers Week
February 28 Scale-Up Application Deadline
March 7 NC STEM Advisory Meeting

Know of other STEM events in North Central Iowa? Email us at: ncstem@iastate.edu

Connect with us!

NC Regional Manager:
Mauree Haage

Website: https://ncstemhub.iastate.edu
Email: ncstem@iastate.edu
Phone: 515-294-0645

Address:

NC STEM Hub
Extension 4-H Building
1259 Stange Road
Ames, IA 50011