As we welcome in 2023, we’re celebrating our 2022 Seal of Approval Recipients! The Seal of Approval recognizes programs & events that help achieve STEM Council goals yet aren’t under the STEM Council umbrella. Congratulations to all of our 2022 recipients!

**2022 Seal of Approval**

**State Science & Technology Fair of Iowa**

The State Science & Technology Fair of Iowa is the largest STEM competition in the state of Iowa. This program focuses on all students in grades 6-12 compete their scientific research projects. Students are immersed in STEM programming and innovation, get judged for their work and compete for awards, scholarships and trips, Iowa businesses judge the student researchers.

**Modeling the Future Challenge**

The Modeling the Future Challenge (MFTC) is a national STEM competition for high school students combining data science, mathematical modeling and actuarial risk analysis into an exciting project-based learning challenge. To compete, students conduct their own research project modeling real-world data to analyze risks and make recommendations to companies, industry groups, governments, or organizations. Iowa State University serves as the Iowa Regional Partner for the MFTC supporting educator professional development and hosting a student workshop on campus in the fall. High school students throughout the state are invited to participate in the Modeling the Future Challenge through the Iowa State University regional activities.

**2022 Seal of Approval**

**Tech Mentorship Program**

PS15’s Tech Mentorship Program prepares the today’s youth to be the employees of tomorrow. Over the course of 6 months, students learn critical technology and workforce readiness skills that equip them to compete in an increasingly digital world. Participants learn directly from industry professionals, building lasting networks, mentorships and relationships with leading financial and technology companies. Students of all background and skill levels are invited to participate.

**Nutcracker Ballet + STEM**

Nutcracker Ballet + STEM is a program designed for elementary aged youth (grades 2-3) to highlight the connection between STEM and the arts. This program supports the development of STEM, art, and literacy skills. Nutcracker Ballet + STEM is an Iowa 4-H program presented in partnership with Stephens Auditorium. There are a variety of STEM and arts activities available for the program, each designed to highlight the magical connection between STEM and the arts.

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**Share your Scale-Up Story with Us!**

Were you awarded a Scale-Up program this year? If so, please share your story and pictures with us! We will share your story in our newsletters and on social media. Invite me out to see the Scale-Up program in action!
Scale-Up Program Applications Now Open!

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

The Iowa Governor’s STEM Advisory Council announces applications have opened for the STEM Scale-Up Program which provides educators and students throughout the state with access to exemplary STEM educational opportunities. These programs are some of the top in the nation and offer a diverse range of STEM activities to nearly 100,000 students each year. The application period for the STEM Scale-Up Program closes on February 28, 2023.

Thirteen programs were selected from a pool of 65 proposals for the 2023-2024 Scale-Up Program menu based on the Council’s strategic priorities, including agricultural science, computational thinking, early learning, ecology and energy education, mathematics, STEM and arts integration, STEM careers, integration into existing curriculum and transdisciplinary learning. These priorities were selected to provide Iowa students with educational opportunities that emphasize the necessary skills needed for the future workforce. Students who participate in the STEM Scale-Up Program have historically performed better on statewide tests compared to students
who do not participate. These students also have an increased interest in STEM subjects and careers.

“The Iowa Governor’s STEM Advisory Council resolved early on that Iowa kids will come in second to no one when it comes to access and opportunity to the best STEM learning resources known to exist,” said Jeff Weld, executive director of the Council. “Scale-Up is that mechanism, selecting outstanding programs that provide educators with the tools to generate interest in STEM subjects among students as well as increase awareness of the abundance of opportunities and demand for STEM careers.”

A team of trained reviewers considered evidence of effect, scalability, diversity impact, cost-benefit ratio, sustainability, Iowa Core alignment and more when selecting final programs. The following 13 programs were selected to be offered to preK-12 educators across Iowa for the 2023-2024 academic year:

- Codelicious
- Daily Math Fluency Centers
- Discover Drones
- Innovate-IT
- Ioponics
- Iowa Leadership in Engineering Design
- Positive Physics and Chemistry
- Python for the BBC micro:bit
- STEM Cart: K-12+ Schoolwide STEM Solution
- STEM Innovator
- Storytime STEM-packs: STEM + Computer Science
- Tiny Techies
- WaterWorks: Engineering and Investigating the Properties of Water

The selected educator recipients will be announced in April. Visit www.iowastem.org/scale-up-application for more information on the 2023-2024 STEM Scale-Up Programs.

CSEdWeek Resources

CSEdWeek might be over, but that doesn't mean everything will disappear!

Resources from CSEdWeek can be found at https://iowastem.org/csedweek.
These resources include lessons, activities, and recordings from panels held throughout the week of December 5-9.

While we are on the topic of CSEdWeek, don't forget to mark your calendar for next year's dates: December 4-8, 2023!

Upcoming STEM Events!

- January 10 Regional Advisory Board Meeting
- January 21 Future City Virtual
- January 28 Future City In-Person
- February 8 STEM Day at the Capital
- February 28 Scale-Up Application Deadline

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

Connect with us!

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