TOMORROW STEMS FROM IOWA
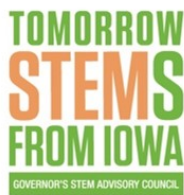
GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

NORTH CENTRAL IOWA STEM REGION

North Central STEM Region

December 2023

TOMORROW STEMS FROM IOWA | STEM BEST PROGRAM
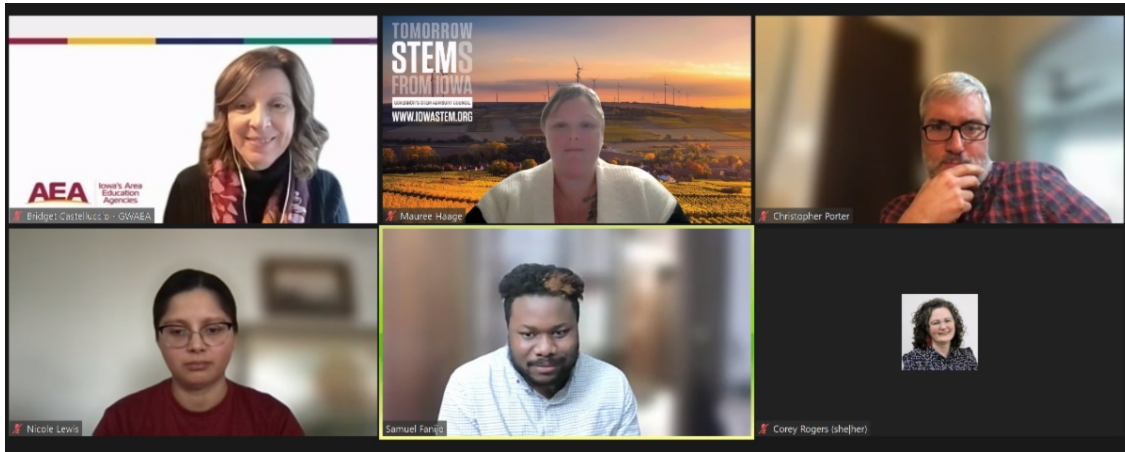
CSEdWeek Builds Renewed Excitement

Students at Osage CSD participated in one of the hybrid in-person locations for the Family Coding Night Event.

Every year during the first week of December, students around the globe take part in Computer Science Education Week (CSEdWeek). For the second year, Iowa has taken a collaborative approach to the week by bringing one uniform message about the importance of computer science. This year's theme, "Creativity in AI," brought about new resources centered around artificial intelligence and panels focusing on careers and career pathways in AI. On December 7, students and their families were able to join us virtually or at one of our hybrid, in-person locations for an evening of coding relating to AI. Students engaged in three different activities centered around the concept of machine learning. Even though the week has concluded, CSEdWeek can be celebrated at any time of the year by visiting Iowa's CSEdWeek website (link to **www.iowastem.org/csedweek).**

A huge thank you goes out to all the partners who helped make this possible including the Iowa Department of Education, Governor's STEM Advisory Council, the statewide AEAs, and many industry partners. Efforts like these have been crucial in the huge gains the

state has made in computer science education including being recently named in the **top 10 states** in the nation for computer science education. We also couldn't do this without the help of educators throughout the state.

Panelists discuss many careers in AI during one of the webinars held during CSEdWeek

New Board Member Spotlight: Maria Morales

- Can you describe your background?
    - I've been working with Iowa Workforce Development for 7 years. I am currently part of the Business Engagement Division, our team works closely with Businesses to assist them with any workforce needs and also connect schools with businesses to connect students to employers. I have over 12 years of experience in Management and Business.
- What kind of work or projects are you currently working on?
    - I am working on a project to help all schools in Iowa transition from Teach Iowa to IowaWORKS as well as making sure all all Iowa businesses know about all of the great services and programs IowaWORKS has to offer. I am also working on a project with The Kansas Leadership Center and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. They have launched Heartland Together, an initiative to advance local entrepreneurship in the Heartland region.
- What do you like most about your job?
    - I enjoy helping businesses grow and motivating others to never give up on their dreams and goals.
- What achievement or contribution are you most proud of?
    - Being able to lead our Business Engagement Division and being a valuable resource to our businesses and team members.
- Why did you decide to become a member of the North Central Advisory Board?
    - I wanted to learn more on what we (IWD) can do to help businesses get connected to our growing workforce, as well as helping students get connected to different STEM opportunities and future careers.
- What message around STEM do you communicate with those around you?
    - I like to share different opportunities as I learn about them.
- What action or "first step" can individuals or communities do to promote STEM?

Scale-Up Time is Almost Here!

- It's hard to believe we are almost to the most wonderful time of the year... Scale-Up time! With that, I would like to give you a few tips as you get ready for the big reveal of the Scale-Up menu.
  - Coordinate with other teachers in your building who are applying for awards. WHY: Scale-Up awards are given by school building. In other words, various individual classroom teachers and grade levels may apply for multiple programs. BUT, if the SC Advisory Board has to make hard decisions, awards will be made with the big picture of the building in mind.
  - Collect SES information. WHY: Know your numbers-- free and reduced lunch, population information, access to other STEM programming. Use that information to write an informed application ensuring inclusion and

equity.

- Study last year's application and ensure you have thoughtful answers this year. You'll find a PDF of **last year's questions** and **scoring rubric** online right now, and this year's official launch will look similar. Let us know if you have questions.
- Get registered for your Iowa Grants account. This year we will be utilizing a new application platform at **www.iowagrants.gov**. To help traffic flow for new registrants, head over and sign up for your account ahead of application time. If you've done this already for other state of Iowa grants or STEM BEST, there's no need to do it again.
- In the meantime, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Mauree Haage and she will happily answer those questions.

STEM Checkout Library

Storytime STEM-Packs and several former STEM Scale-Up kits are now available for checkout. These packs are a great hands on, creative way for students to learn more about various STEM

concepts.

Learn more about available kits here:
Stem Pack Checkout Information

Request a kit here: **Check-Out Form**

STEM Challenge Cards

PLAY DOUGH ANIMAL CHALLENGE

Materials to Gather: Hair conditioner (1/2 cup), Corn Starch(1 cup), Sparkles or food coloring.

Directions:
Place cornstarch in a large bowl. Mix in the hair conditioner with your hands until it becomes smooth and pliable. Add a drop or two of the food coloring, or colored sparkles for variation. Add additional hair conditioner when needed to remain soft.

Animal Challenge: Shape your play dough into various animals. How many can you makie? Take a picture or video, and post to the NC STEM Region Facebook page!

*Note - This recipe is not edible! don't eat the play dough!

GREATNESS STEMS FROM IOWANS
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In addition to our checkout library, we have STEM Challenge Cards available by request. Each card has an easy to prepare STEM challenge for when you're looking for an activity to either supplement content or for students to do during transitional times in the classroom. In addition to the cards, some materials can be requested as well, though many are found easily at home.

To look at the challenge options and request any, click here:
STEM Challenge Card Checkout Check-Out Form

Teacher Externships are Right Around the Corner!

Upcoming Events!

December 13 - STEM BEST Applications Due

January 5 - North Central STEM Advisory Board Meeting

January 9 - Scale-Up Program Applications Open

February 7 - STEM Day at the Capitol

February 27 Scale-Up Program Application Deadline

April 1 - STEM Summit

April 17 - STEM Festival in Mason City

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

Connect with us!

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