

## North Central STEM Region

### January 2024



## PreK-12 Educators May Apply for STEM Scale-Up Programs Starting January 8

The Iowa STEM Advisory Council selects some of the state and nation's high-quality programs and offers them to Iowa PreK-12 educators through the STEM Scale-Up Program. Each year, the STEM Council equips thousands of educators with STEM programs that inspire nearly 100,000 youth.

### **PreK-12 educators from the following organizations may apply:**

- Public and private PreK-12 schools
- Childcare centers
- County conservation offices
- Libraries

- County extension offices
- Home school associations
- Other formal and informal youth organizations who deliver STEM education programming for PreK-12 youth.

This year, the STEM Council will be utilizing a new application platform at **www.iowagrants.gov**. To help traffic flow for new registrants; Create a user account TODAY through: **IowaGrants.gov**

**Creating an account:** It may take up to **72 hours to activate** your account.

NOTE: If you already have an account through iowagrants.gov there is no need to do it again.

Each Program Provider will be hosting at least one 20-30 minute informational webinar for educators to learn about their respective program. The Scale-Up Program menu for the 2024-2025 academic year includes the following fourteen programs:

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## All About Balance

Watch your children become more curious and engaged as they actively explore the role of balance within the world of objects, and with their own bodies.

- **Grade Level:** PK-2
- **Contact:** Beth VanMeeteren, University of Northern Iowa, Iowa Regents' Center for Early Developmental Education  
**Beth.VanMeeteren@uni.edu**
- **Website:** <https://regentsctr.uni.edu/>
- **Fact Sheet**

Informational webinar(s) will be hosted on;

- January 12 @ 3:45 pm **Register**
- January 18 @ 3:45 pm **Register**
- January 19 @ 3:45 pm **Register**
- January 25 @ 3:45 pm **Register**

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## Blackbird Code

A collection of online curricula that teaches math or science through the lens of coding. Students write real, text-based programs which bring to life the core concepts they are learning.

- **Grade Level:** 6-12
- **Contact:** Ness Blackbird, Blackbird Code, [ness@blackbird.com](mailto:ness@blackbird.com)
  - **Website:** <https://blackbirdcode.com>
    - [Fact Sheet](#)

Informational webinar(s) will be hosted on;

- January 24 @ 3:00 pm **Register**
- February 26 @ 4:00 pm **Register**

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## Derivita Math

Platform maximizes the impact of your current math curriculum and increases student engagement in math.

- **Grade Level:** 6-12
- **Contact:** Doug Sovde, Derivita, [doug.sovde@derivita.com](mailto:doug.sovde@derivita.com)
  - **Website:** <https://www.derivita.com/getting-started-onboarding>
    - [Fact Sheet](#)

Informational webinar(s) will be hosted on;

- January 8 @ 4:00 pm **Register**

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## Exploring and Connecting to Iowa's Agriculture

Exploring and Connecting to Iowa's Agriculture is a two-day professional development workshop that engages educators with agriculture professionals and classroom curriculum.

- **Grade Level:** 2-8
- **Contact:** Cathryn Carney, Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation, [ccarney@iowaagliteracy.org](mailto:ccarney@iowaagliteracy.org)
  - **Website:** <https://www.iowaagliteracy.org/>
    - [Fact Sheet](#)

Informational webinar(s) will be hosted on;

- January 25 @ 3:30 pm **Register**

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## FUSE Studio

FUSE creates onramps to deeper STEAM engagement and encourages

STEAM exploration through an innovative, challenge-based approach and studio-like environment.

- **Grade Level:** 4-12
- **Contact:** Reed Stevens, Northwestern University, [reed-stevens@northwestern.edu](mailto:reed-stevens@northwestern.edu)
- **Website:** <https://www.fusestudio.net/>
  - [Fact Sheet](#)

Informational webinar(s) will be hosted on;

- January 17 @ 4:00 pm **Register**
- January 23 @ 4:00 pm **Register**
- February 5 @ 4:00 pm **Register**

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## Investigating Everyday Phenomena

A program designed to captivate young minds while demystifying real-world phenomena.

- **Grade Level:** K-5
- **Contact:** Valerie Cole, hand2mind, Inc., [vcole@hand2mind.com](mailto:vcole@hand2mind.com)
- **Website:** <https://www.hand2mind.com/iowascaleup>
  - [Fact Sheet](#)

Informational webinar(s) will be hosted on;

- February 6 @ 4:00 pm **Register**

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## Making Innovative STEM Connections

This lesson design framework focuses around the idea that making and tinkering are ways to engage student's minds and build conceptual understanding around academic content.

- **Grade Level:** PK-8
- **Contact:** Robert Burnett, Science Center of Iowa, [rob.burnett@sciowa.org](mailto:rob.burnett@sciowa.org)
- **Website:** <https://www.sciowa.org/education/professional-development/educators/making-stem-connections/>
  - [Fact Sheet](#)

Informational webinar(s) will be hosted on;

- January 23 @ 1:00 pm **Register** (PW: 387966)

## **Positive Physics, Chemistry, Physical Science, Biology, Environmental Science & Engineering**

An engaging, online lesson and problem bank. The site was designed to be accessible to students on any level from basic to AP.

- **Grade Level:** 6-12
- **Contact:** Jack Replinger, Positive Physics, [jack@positivephysics.org](mailto:jack@positivephysics.org)
  - **Website:** [www.positivephysics.org/](http://www.positivephysics.org/)
    - [Fact Sheet](#)

Informational webinar(s) will be hosted on;

- January 24 @ 3:30 pm **Register**
  - February 21 @ 3:30 pm **Register**
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## **Robo Wunderkind STEM Program**

Offers easy-to-use building blocks and a series of age-appropriate coding apps that develop computational thinking skills and spark a curiosity for STEAM in young learners.

- **Grade Level:** K-5
- **Contact:** Jamie Guidry, Robo Wunderkind, Inc., [jamie@robowunderkind.com](mailto:jamie@robowunderkind.com)
- Website: <https://www.robowunderkind.com/us/home>
  - [Fact Sheet](#)

Informational webinar(s) will be hosted on;

- January 18 @ 4:30 pm **Register**
  - January 23 @ 7:00 pm **Register**
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## **Spatial Vis: The First Step in Design for Engineering and Technology**

A tool to teach freehand sketching and improve students' spatial skills.

- **Grade Level:** 6-12
- **Contact:** Lelli Van Den Einde, eGrove Education, Inc.,

lelli@egrove.education

**Website:** <https://egrove.education/>

### **Fact Sheet**

Informational webinar(s) will be hosted on;

- January 22 @ 4:00 pm

**Register**

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## **Turing Tumble**

A revolutionary STEM game that teaches how computers work at a fundamental level. Students build marble-powered, mechanical computers to solve a series of structured logic puzzles using their own hands instead of a screen.

**Grade Level:** 3-12

**Contact:** Anna Riechers, Upper Story, [anna.riechers@upperstory.com](mailto:anna.riechers@upperstory.com)

**Website:** <https://upperstory.com/>

### **Fact Sheet**

Informational webinar(s) will be hosted on;

- January 17 @ 11:30 am **Register**
  - February 1 @ 4:30 pm **Register**
  - February 20 @ 7:00 pm **Register**
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## **Timeline**

January 8 - Application opens

February 28 - Application closes

April 8 - Awardees notified

July 1, 2024 thru May 31, 2025 - Implementation

Please contact Jeff Beneke at [jeff.beneke@uni.edu](mailto:jeff.beneke@uni.edu) or 319-273-7397 if you have any questions about the programs or the application process.

Visit <https://iowastem.org/Scale-Up-Application> for further information.

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**Virtual STEM Scale-Up Workshop**

# Virtual STEM Scale-up Workshop

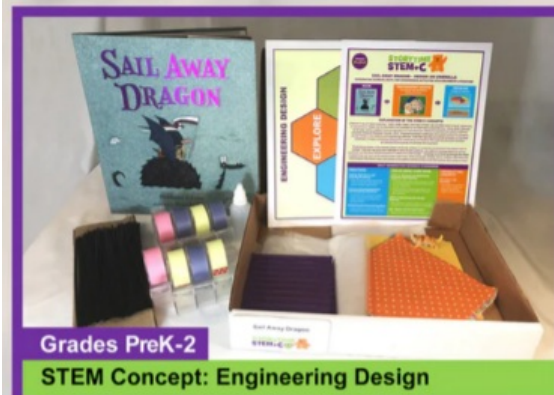


We will be hosting two Virtual STEM Scale-Up Workshops to help learn about the programs on the STEM Scale-Up Program menu. Not only that, but participants will be assisted on accessing the new portal system as well as tips on how to submit a quality application. Registration details can be found below. Prior to attending the workshop, please make sure you have an active Iowa Grants account. This can take up to 72 hours to activate, so do that sooner rather than later. Help on setting that up can be found in this [help guide](#). Please don't hesitate to reach out to Mauree Haage at [mhaage@iastate.edu](mailto:mhaage@iastate.edu) with any questions.

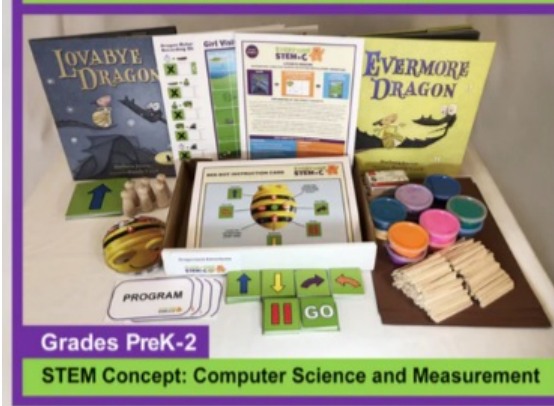
- January 23rd
  - 4pm-5pm
  - [Registration Link](#)
- February 8th
  - 11AM - Noon
  - [Registration Link](#)

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## STEM Checkout Library



Grades PreK-2  
STEM Concept: Engineering Design



Grades PreK-2  
STEM Concept: Computer Science and Measurement



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

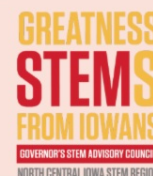
**Materials to Gather:** Hair conditioner (1/2 cup), Corn Starch(1 cup), Sparkles or food coloring.

**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 make? 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!





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](#)**

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## Upcoming Events!

**January 23 - (4-5 PM) Virtual STEM Scale-Up Workshop**

**February 5 - North Central STEM Advisory Board Meeting**

**February 7 - STEM Day at the Capitol**

**February 7 - (11 AM-Noon) Virtual STEM Scale-Up Workshop**

**February 28 - 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](mailto:ncstem@iastate.edu)***

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## Connect with us!

**NC Regional Manager:**

Mauree Haage

**Website:** <https://ncstemhub.iastate.edu>

**Email:** [ncstem@iastate.edu](mailto:ncstem@iastate.edu)

**Phone:** 515-294-0645

**Address:**

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Ames, IA 50011



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