

North Central STEM Region September 2024

New Iowa STEM Website!



Check out the new location of the Iowa STEM website under the Iowa Department of Education: <https://educate.iowa.gov/iowa-stem>.

Make sure to bookmark it!

Summer Externs Head Back to the Classroom

This summer, seven teachers took part in the Iowa STEM Teacher Externships Program in the North Central STEM region. Their experiences ranged from woods and wetlands to labs and offices, helping to find answers to the age-old student question: “When am I ever going to use this?”

Each month, we will highlight one of those externs. For more information on how you could become a teacher extern or host an extern, please visit: <https://educate.iowa.gov/iowa-stem/stem-teacher-externships>

Keresten Bobby
Marshall County Conservation
Marshalltown, IA

Keresten's primary responsibilities were assisting the naturalists in day camp programs to educate youth on science and the wildlife in the area. Other responsibilities included updating resources available to the public and helping to deliver programs for MICA and public libraries across the county. She also ran her own programs on the human impacts to local stream health and birding.

"I think students often lack the kinds of skills needed to be successful in a job that is not as structured. Specifically, I believe that I need to support students in managing unstructured time and autonomy of tasks more than I have in the past."

-Keresten Bobby, science teacher at B.R. Miller Middle School in Muscatine



STEM BEST Application Now Open!

Application
Open
October 7 -
December 11!



**TOMORROW
STEMS
FROM IOWA**
GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

STEM BEST
PROGRAM



The STEM BEST (Businesses Engaging Students and Teachers) program focuses on teachers and industry professionals working side-by-side to craft curriculum and projects that prepare students for exciting STEM careers in manufacturing, information technology, bioscience (agriculture and medicine), finance and more.

- **Who Can Apply**
 - Applications to become a STEM BEST program open on October 7, via the [IowaGrants.gov](https://www.iowagrants.gov) portal. All accredited Iowa public and non-public school districts and buildings serving students in grades K-12, or clusters of schools/districts, are invited.
- **Type of Funding Opportunities**

- School districts and buildings may apply as either a New STEM BEST program or Returning STEM BEST program.
 - The New STEM BEST Program supports school districts that have never previously received STEM BEST funding.
 - The Returning STEM BEST Program supports school districts that have previously been awarded STEM BEST and are proposing significant growth and/or implementation following a planning award.
 - **Requirements**
 - An applicant is required to provide a 2:1 match. If seeking the full \$40,000, your required cost-share would be \$20,000. The match may be either cash and/or in-kind support and the match may be contributed by the applicant or a community partner. To be eligible as a match, the cash and/or in-kind contribution must be provided during the funding period of the STEM BEST program award.
 - **Examples of Fund Use**
 - Since 2014, 121 STEM BEST programs have been awarded an opportunity to grow a series of community collaborations involving school+business partnerships.
 - Ideas include:
 - Facility upgrades
 - Purchase of industry grade equipment
 - Acquiring additional space
 - Time for program planning with partners
 - Travel needs for exploration
 - Integrating curriculum into existing courses
 - **Application and Program Timeline**
 - Starting today, consider programs you'd like to build or expand in your community. Take note of what you hope to accomplish, and make a list of potential community partners. Here are some important dates:
 - **October 7, 2024: Application opens in [IowaGrants.gov](https://www.iowagrants.gov)**
 - December 11, 2024: Application due by 4:59pm
 - December 2024 - January, 2025: Application Review
 - February 2025: Awards Announced
 - February 2025 - May 2026: STEM BEST program planning and implementation
-

STEAMfest Coming to Fort Dodge

STEAM Fest

SCIENCE / TECHNOLOGY / ENGINEERING / ART / MATH



November 7, 2024
4pm - 7pm

Iowa Central Community College
One Triton Circle / Career Education Building / Fort Dodge

FREE K- 6 GRADE EVENT AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



STEM Checkout Library



Grades PreK-2

STEM Concept: Engineering Design



Grades PreK-2

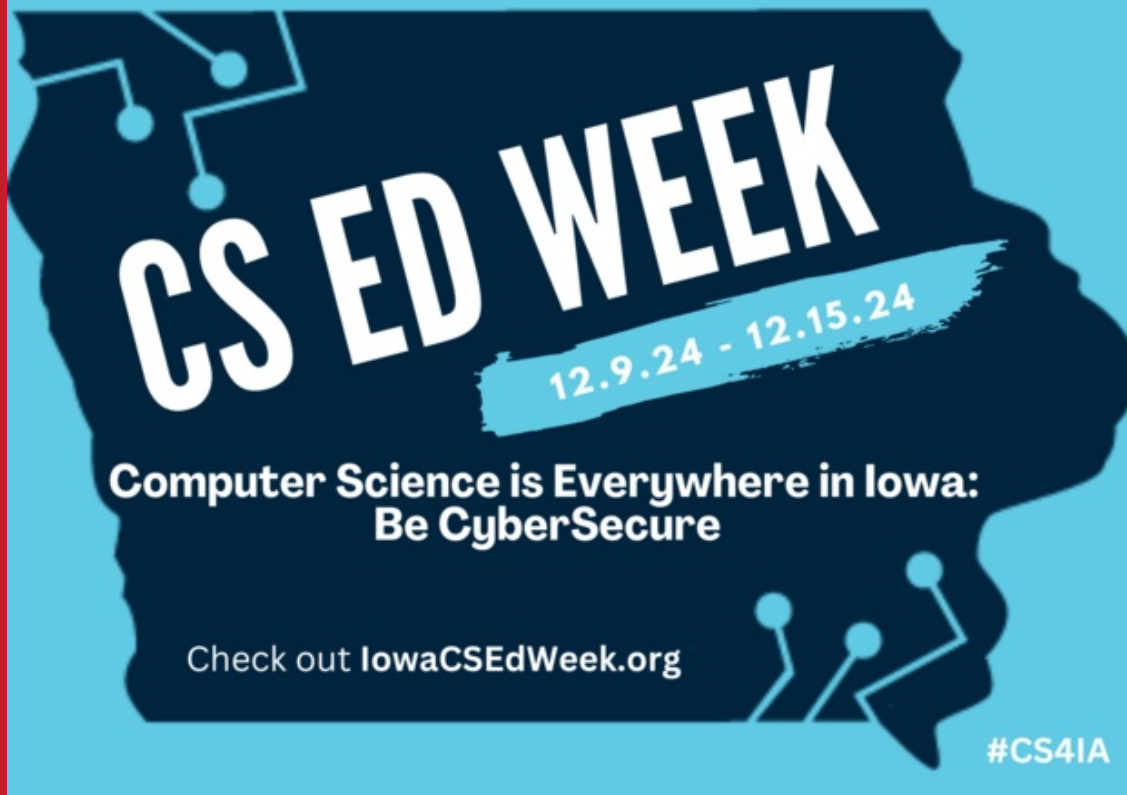
STEM Concept: Computer Science and Measurement



Our STEM checkout library is back up and running for the school year! Make sure to visit the **Check-Out Form** to reserve your STEM kit now. 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

Save the Date!



Go Further STEM Conference



GO FURTHER GIRLS STEM CONFERENCE

Join us for a day full of exploration of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Engage in activities centered on STEM Fields, learn more about STEM role models and the amazing opportunities at Iowa State!

Conference is for 8-10th grade students.

Conference Dates:

Thu. Oct. 31st, 2024

Thu. Nov. 7th, 2024

9 AM - 2 PM

Early registration: \$30

Price increase on

10/22: \$35

PLEASE EMAIL TO REGISTER: TBRYAN@IASTATE.EDU



STEM Challenge Cards

PLAY DOUGH ANIMAL CHALLENGE

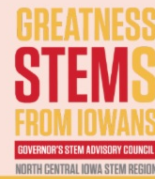
Materials to Gather: Hair conditioner (1/2 cup), Corn Starch(1 cup), Sparkles or food coloring.

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](#)

Upcoming Events!

- **September 12-13**
 - Professional Development: Making Innovative STEM Connections
- **October 1**
 - Science Educator Regional Professional Learning Day at Drake
- **October 8**
 - Science Educator Regional Professional Learning Day at UNI
- **October 11**
 - Professional Development: All About Balance
- **October 19**
 - Professional Development: All About Balance
- **October 24**
 - Science Educator Regional Professional Learning Day at Morningside College
- **November 7**
 - Fort Dodge Area STEAMfest (more details to come!)
- **November 14**
 - NC STEM Advisory Board Meeting
- **December 9**
 - CS Ed Week Kickoff Event
- **December 10**

- Careers in Cybersecurity Panel
- **December 11**
 - Pathways to Cybersecurity Careers Panel
- **December 12**
 - Iowa's Virtual Family Coding Night

***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:

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