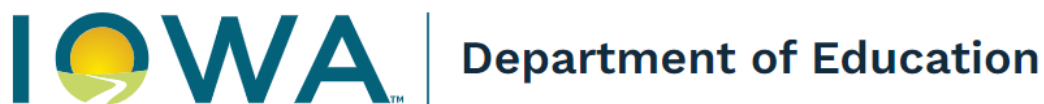


## North Central STEM Region September 2024

### 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



## Attention All Science Teachers!

# Iowa DOE Science Educator Regional Professional Learning Day

**DATE: October 1**

**WHERE: Olmsted Center, Drake University**

**TIME: 9pm-3pm**

**AUDIENCE: K-12 educators**



On October 1, the SC STEM Hub and Drake will partner with Chris Like from the Iowa Department of Education to host a Science Educator Regional Professional Learning Day. We're hoping every Iowa district will send an individual or team to share in one of the three days.

Here are the details for the Drake University event:

- DATE: October 1
- WHERE: Olmsted Center, Drake University
- TIME: 9pm-3pm
- AUDIENCE: K-12 educators
- CONTENT: Provide best practices in using investigation to teach science and meet standards within phenomenon-based exploration.

Attendees will leave with curriculum ideas, new connections, and an inspiring message on the importance of what you do everyday--encourage kids to be curious and understand the world. If you can't make that date, please consider October 8 at UNI or October 24 at Morningside College.

If you have questions, please **email the Hub**, and we'll get you connected to the person with an answer.

[Register Here!](#)

## Energy PD Coming to Des Moines



The National Energy Education Development Project and Phillips 66 are partnering to provide teachers with a free one-day workshop focused on energy education in the Des Moines area on September 25th. The workshop is free and substitute reimbursement will also be provided to those attending. Teachers attending the professional development will also get a free classroom kit.

### Date and Location:

- September 25, 2024
- Holiday Inn Des Moines - Airport  
611 Fleur Drive  
Des Moines, IA 50321

### Who Should Attend?

- 4th-12th grade science teachers
- CTE teachers
- Math teachers
- Social Science teachers
- Afterschool program leaders

### For Attendees:

- Breakfast and lunch provided
- Substitute Reimbursement
- A NEED Science of Energy Kit
- State standard aligned curriculum

### Questions?

[Register Here!](#)

## STEM Checkout Library



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](#)

## STEM Challenge Cards

# PLAY DOUGH ANIMAL CHALLENGE

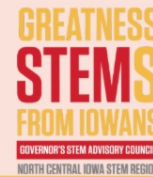
**Materials to Gather:** Hair conditioner (1/2 cup), Corn Starch(1 cup), Sparkles or food coloring.

**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! )

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

**Phone:** 515-294-0645

**Address:**

NC STEM Hub

Extension 4-H Building

1259 Stange Road

Ames, IA 50011



North Central STEM Network | Extension 4-H Youth Building Iowa State University 1259  
Stange Rd | Ames, IA 50011-1002 US

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