



GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Six Iowa schools win \$30,000 in technology awards for "Hour of Code" participation *STEM Council, Google and Code.org award one school in each STEM region*

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa – The Iowa Governor's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Advisory Council partnered with Code.org in its second international, educational movement called, "Hour of Code," to award a combined \$30,000 to six schools across the state.

This partnership, referred to as "Code Iowa," localized Code.org's effort to introduce 100 million students around the world to at least one hour of computer coding. In Iowa, nearly 50 schools registered and more than 10,000 students will take part in the "Hour of Code" during Computer Science Education Week, beginning today through December 14.

Each year, Code.org awards one school in each state with a \$10,000 technology award based on its proposal that outlines how the school plans to implement at least one hour of computer coding into its curriculum this week for every grade level. With the support of Google, the STEM Council partnered with Code.org to award \$4,000 each to five more schools – one in each STEM region that did not win the Code.org award.

This year's Code.org award recipient is English Valleys Jr/Sr High School in North English. Winners of the Google-sponsored awards are Sawyer Elementary School in Ames, Corning Elementary School in Corning, Aurora Heights Intermediate School in Newton, MOC-Floyd Valley High School in Orange City and Postville Community School District in Postville. All of the awards will be used for the purchase of any form of instructional technology needed by each school.

Each school will host all media interested in watching students complete coding exercises at the following dates and times. Please contact Angel Mendez, Communications Specialist, if interested in attending any of the below mentioned "Hour of Code" demonstrations at 785-741-5267:

- English Valleys Jr/Sr High School – Tuesday, December 9 at 3 p.m.
- Sawyer Elementary School – Tuesday, December 9 from 8:45 to 9:25 a.m.
- Corning Elementary School – Wednesday, December 10 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.
- Aurora Heights Intermediate School – Tuesday, December 9 from 12:15 to 2:45 p.m.
- MOC-Floyd Valley High School – Monday, December 8 at 2:50 p.m. and Tuesday, December 9 at 2:15 p.m.
- Postville Community School District – Friday, December 12 from 9 to 10 a.m. and 2 to 3 p.m.

All schools in Iowa that registered for the "Hour of Code" will become Certified Code Iowa Partners through the STEM Council and receive information about free K-5 Computer Science workshops to be offered in early 2015.

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About the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council

Established in July 2011 via Governor's Executive Order, the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council is a public-private partnership of educators, companies, and Iowa students and families addressing policies and programs designed to improve Iowa's educational system focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The Council works to engage and prepare students for a career-ready workforce path, regain our State's historic leadership position in education, and provide a vital competitive economic advantage now, and for the future, to ensure that every Iowa

student has access to world-class STEM education opportunities. The 47-member Council is chaired by Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds and Vermeer Corp. CEO Mary Andringa. For more information, visit www.iowaSTEM.gov.

About Code.org

Launched in 2013, Code.org® is a non-profit dedicated to expanding participation in computer science by making it available in more schools, and increasing participation by women and underrepresented students of color. Our vision is that every student in every school should have the opportunity to learn computer science. We believe computer science and computer programming should be part of the core curriculum in education, alongside other STEM courses, such as biology, physics, chemistry and algebra.