

MEDIA ADVISORY

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STEM Council votes to renew all six regional STEM Hub institutions

Goal set for engaging new partnerships in upcoming year

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa – The executive committee of the Iowa Governor's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Advisory Council voted at their Dec. 9 meeting to renew hub partnerships with all six of its current regional STEM hub institutions for another three-year term beginning next summer.

In July 2012, these six institutions of higher education competed for a three-year agreement to serve as regional hubs for the STEM Council Network:

- Northwest Region: Iowa Lakes Community College;
- North Central Region: Iowa State University;
- Northeast Region: University of Northern Iowa;
- Southwest Region: Southwestern Community College;
- South Central Region: Drake University; and
- Southeast Region: University of Iowa/Kirkwood Community College.

In making their determination to renew, the executive committee reviewed performance reports of each institution and invited representatives to comment on strengths and opportunities for growth moving forward. The executive director of the STEM Council observed that each campus has taken on a leadership contribution for the entire state network, aligned with missions and unique expertise and capacities.

"Iowa's system of STEM regions operating through the six hubs allows us to deliver outstanding STEM opportunities to children throughout Iowa," said Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, co-chair of the STEM Council. "Each institution has exceeded our hopes and expectations regarding support for our regional STEM managers. We are grateful to the professionals on each campus who make this system work."

After the approval for renewals, the STEM Council reached a consensus agreement to require that each regional hub institution engage a set number of partner institutions in its region for purposeful collaboration in the coming year. This recommendation is an outgrowth of the competitive nature of the initial awarding of hub status to these campuses. In order to expand the network and to penetrate local communities with STEM, the committee believes that hubs and regional managers will need to continue to work hard to unite all partners in this effort.

"The great work being done in STEM across Iowa is really the result of local partnerships forged through our network of hub institutions and regional managers," said Vermeer CEO Mary Andringa, co-chair of the STEM Council. "There is a can-do, collaborative spirit among these seven colleges and universities that serve as a model for local schools, businesses and other organizations. We're delighted that they are willing to continue on in their vital roles."

All six of the regional hub institutions will be evaluated annually with the next renewal decision date set for July 2018.

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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. Governor Kim Reynolds and Vermeer Corp. CEO Mary Andringa. For more information, visit www.iowaSTEM.gov.