



## GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

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### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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#### **STEM Council announces invitation for exemplary STEM programs to scale across Iowa**

*Current Scale-Up programs reached more than 100,000 preK-12 youth*

**CEDAR FALLS, Iowa** – The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council has released a nationwide invitation for the best of STEM programs to compete for scaling across Iowa in 2015-16. Winners will demonstrate through their proposals, clear evidence of success in increasing student interest and achievement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), as well as inspiring children of diverse backgrounds and abilities by driving connections with business and industry. Chosen programs will be presented to educators throughout the state, who will apply to bring them into their classrooms and clubs.

Results from the first two years of Scale-Up in Iowa indicate that more than 100,000 preK-12 youth and several thousand educators (in and out of school) from rural to urban settings are benefitting in terms of participation of girls, boys and youth of underrepresented populations. Participants show greater interest in STEM study, higher performance on tests and more likelihood to pursue post-secondary study and careers in STEM.

"The quality STEM programs that have been implemented in the last three years have blanketed Iowa with some of the best-known learning experiences to exist," said Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, co-chair of the Governor's STEM Advisory Council alongside Vermeer Corporation CEO Mary Andringa. "We are excited to broaden the offerings to Iowa's dedicated educators, both within and beyond traditional school settings, so that every Iowa child has an equally-enriching STEM learning experience."

In this fourth year for Scale-Up programming in Iowa, the STEM Council has been invited to partner with the national STEM organization, Change the Equation (<http://changetheequation.org/>), that works to build a national registry of exemplary STEM programs, known as the STEMworks Database. Applicants now have the opportunity to compete simultaneously for STEMworks listing and Iowa Scale-Up. They will be judged against Change the Equation's rigorous Design Principles for effectiveness as well as additional state-specific criteria to assess their readiness to expand in Iowa. The programs identified through this year's proposal process will add to the variety of options provided through Scale-Up in Iowa.

"Evidence shows that Iowa's talent pipeline supporting high-demand and high-wage careers in the STEM fields takes shape in the minds of our youth during the critical preK-12 years," said Council co-chair and Vermeer CEO, Mary Andringa. "The Council's Scale-Up initiative makes perfect sense in that it reaches out to identify tried-and-true successes and delivers them to the children and teachers whose inspiration will power Iowa's economy into the future."

"Change the Equation is honored to help the Council identify the most effective STEM programs for its Scale-Up initiative," said Change the Equation CEO Linda Rosen. "Corporate America has long been a leader in its focus on effective STEM programs that deliver a return on the investment. The collaboration between Change the Equation and the Council embodies this critical principle."

The most competitive proposals, which may come from a variety of sources including academic institutions, nonprofit organizations or the private sector, will be those that are clearly evidence-based, well-planned, targeting areas of Iowa need and readily scalable across the state. The proposal form is located at [http://changetheequation.org/stemworks\\_application/home/index.php](http://changetheequation.org/stemworks_application/home/index.php) and **must be submitted by 5:00 pm on**

**December 12, 2014.** For more information, please contact Jeff Weld, executive director of the Governor's STEM Advisory Council at [info@iowastem.gov](mailto:info@iowastem.gov).

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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](http://www.IowaSTEM.gov).

#### **About Change the Equation**

Change the Equation works at the intersection of business and education to ensure that all students are STEM literate by collaborating with schools, communities, and states to adopt and implement excellent STEM policies and programs. CTEq's coalition of members are working toward universal STEM literacy by advocating for state policies and practices that are known to produce STEM-literate high school graduates; ensuring high standards for all students; and supporting evidence-based high quality STEM learning programs.