

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 26, 2015

### **STEM Council broadens Scale-Up program menu for 2015-2016**

*Total of 14 STEM programs to serve thousands of students across the state*

**CEDAR FALLS, Iowa** – A statewide program of the Iowa Governor's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Advisory Council selected four new PreK-12 STEM education programs to serve thousands of students across the state in the 2015-2016 academic year.

The STEM Council voted to add "Ten80 National STEM League," "ST Math," "Project Lead the Way Launch" and "Project Lead the Way Computer Science and Software Engineering" to the Scale-Up program menu. These programs demonstrated their appeal to diverse youth, their success in improving academic performance and evidence of integrating STEM concepts, fostering of school-business-community partnerships and track records of sustainability.

This year, the STEM Council partnered with the national organization, Change the Equation, to select programs that meet the organization's "rigorous principles for effectiveness." With this partnership, the four new Scale-Up programs earned dual status within its "STEMWorks Database" and the STEM Council's Scale-Up program menu.

Iowa's Scale-Up initiative will now offer 14 programs that range from building robots and wind turbines to virtual reality, agricultural science, STEM career awareness and more. The new additions to last year's menu of 10 exemplary options for teachers will expand the elementary mathematics, engineering and computer science offerings.

"Bringing the best STEM learning opportunities to children everywhere in Iowa is the mission of Scale-Up. To be selected for partnership with Change The Equation on the process both complements and strengthens this important work," said Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, STEM Council co-chair. "Feedback from our evaluators documents the far-reaching and significant impact of the program on students and their teachers."

In the last three years, several thousand educators have implemented Scale-Up programs, including PreK-12 teachers, homeschoolers, after-school club leaders, Extension and 4-H professionals, daycare providers and church group sponsors. Almost all of Iowa's 348 school districts take part, reaching more than 100,000 youth each year. Results from the 2013-2014 Iowa STEM evaluation report show nearly 90 percent of students who participated in a Scale-Up program reported higher interest in at least one STEM subject or career with nearly 75 percent of past Scale-Up teachers continuing their program after the STEM Council's financial support ends.

"The STEM Council decided early on that the most efficient path to our goal for outstanding STEM in every classroom was to find and grow best practices rather than to reinvent the wheel," said Vermeer Corporation CEO and STEM Council co-chair Mary Andringa. "Scale-up is that vehicle, driven by our outstanding team of regional network managers, delivering proven and exciting hands-on learning across the state."

Beginning on Monday, January 26, the STEM Council invites all PreK-12 educators to apply for these STEM learning programs for the 2015-2016 academic year at [IowaSTEM.gov/2015-16Scale-Up](http://IowaSTEM.gov/2015-16Scale-Up). That application window will close on Monday, March 9 and recipients will be announced at the end of March.

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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](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.

### **About Project Lead The Way Computer Science**

Project Lead the Way Computer Science is an innovative 4-year computer science pathway that prepares high school students for the growing number of jobs that require computational thinking. For more information, visit <https://www.pltw.org/our-programs/pltw-computer-science>.

### **About Project Lead the Way Launch**

Project Lead the Way Launch is a rigorous problem-based program in which K-5 students use structured approaches, such as the engineering design process and scientific method, to solve real-world problems. For more information, visit <https://www.pltw.org/our-programs/pltw-launch>.

### **About ST Math**

ST Math uses instructional software to teach math concepts visually to elementary school through computer games, while developing critical problem-solving and reasoning skills essential for tomorrow's workforce. For more information, visit <http://www.mindresearch.org/programs/>.

### **About Ten80 National STEM League**

TEN80 National STEM League inspires students to collaborate, create and compete in ways that mirror professional innovators in engineering, software and hardware integration, enterprise, marketing and sustainable development. For more information, visit <http://www.ten80education.com>.