



GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

dedicated to building a strong STEM education foundation for all Iowans

Media Contact:
Lindy Ibeling
Communications Manager
Governor's STEM Advisory Council
lbeling@lowaSTEM.gov
515-343-6262

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 20, 2019

STEM BEST® Program Application To Open May 20

Business Engaging Students and Teachers

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa – The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council will begin accepting applications for the STEM BEST® Program on May 20. A total of 50 STEM BEST® Programs have been awarded throughout Iowa over the past five years. These programs are now creating new excitement around the state as roles and responsibilities for meaningful activities are created and refined in the K-12 educational area. Models feature public-private partnerships between schools and local businesses and are cost-shared enterprises that match the STEM Council's investment with local dollars. Further details on these awarded programs can be found at <http://www.lowaSTEM.gov/STEMBEST>.

The goal of STEM BEST® Program is to unite educators and employers to expand the learning continuum from school to careers. The STEM Council has designated a portion of the state legislative funding to support the establishment of Iowa STEM BEST® Program models, preferably evenly distributed across each of Iowa's six STEM regions. Successful applicants will become an Iowa STEM BEST® Program model of the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council.

A hallmark of Iowa STEM education is the connection of classroom learning to meaning beyond the school walls. Overarching guidelines are provided to assist proposers, though ample flexibility in design is encouraged to support organic development of STEM BEST® Programs which match local strengths, challenges and resources. STEM BEST® Program models are open to K-12 applicants. Past STEM BEST® Program award recipients are eligible to apply for expanding current programs.

The Request For Proposals (RFP) is posted at www.lowaSTEM.gov. To learn more about STEM education in Iowa contact the Governor's STEM Advisory Council Administration Office or visit www.lowaSTEM.gov.

Award recipients for the 2019-2020 STEM BEST® Program will be announced in late October 2019.

###

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 STEM 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 50-member STEM Council is chaired by Governor Kim Reynolds and Accumold President and CEO Roger Hargens. For more information, visit www.lowaSTEM.gov.