

## **Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council Regional STEM Hub Network Selected to Join Global STEM Learning Ecosystems Community of Practice; Iowa Regional STEM Hub Network Wins Support to Build Connections Among Local Schools, Businesses, Other Partners**

Cedar Falls, IA -- April 3, 2019 -- The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council Regional STEM Hub Network has just been selected to join the STEM Learning Ecosystems Community of Practice, [SLECoP](#). In a highly competitive process, the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council Regional STEM Hub Network was named one of 15 new ecosystems selected to join the global movement devoted to dramatic improvement in how students learn.

STEM Learning Ecosystems build meaningful regional connections among educators, business and industry partners, afterschool and summer programs, to prepare students for the opportunities and challenges of the future. Each ecosystem connects to counterparts from across the country and world, enabling the exchange of best practices, information and resource-sharing.

The 15 ecosystems joining the SLECoP bring the number to 85 [total](#), with most in the United States but also extending to Canada, Mexico, Israel and Kenya. New ecosystems to join the SLECoP range from the entire states of Iowa, Texas, South Carolina and West Virginia to regions like Biloxi, Miss., Broward County, Fla., Central Massachusetts and Lincoln, Neb.

"This was an incredibly competitive process, and we were only able to admit ecosystems who would be capable of making immediate contributions to our thriving community of practice," said Jan Morrison, president and founding partner of TIES, the organization that operates the SLECoP. "The ecosystems that we selected now have pulled together diverse partners who no longer accept the status quo in education; they want to see all students access high quality STEM education that will prepare them for life and work in the next century."

Forming STEM ecosystems was included as a top priority for STEM education in the 2019-2023 Federal STEM Education 5-Year Strategic Plan released in December 2018 by the Federal Office of Science and Technology Policy.

"Iowa STEM has established strong regional networks uniting educators, businesses, nonprofits, and other key stakeholders in delivering rich, meaningful STEM education and experiences to our youth," said Jeffrey Weld, Executive Director of the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council Regional STEM Hub Network. "Now that our work is recognized as a STEM Learning Ecosystem, we can build on a strong foundation to leverage the collective impact of a national consortium, contributing to and drawing from the experiences of similar alliances across the world."

Members of the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council Regional STEM Hub Network include representatives from preK-12 schools, informal learning organizations, libraries, businesses, workforce and economic developers, AEAs, Extension, higher education institutions, local policy, and other key stakeholders.

[The STEM Learning Ecosystems Community of Practice, SLECoP](#), is a global initiative of innovators who know that thriving communities are built through collaboration and a willingness to reimagine education and provide opportunities to those commonly neglected.

The SLECoP was built on the fundamental belief that learning happens everywhere, not just in traditional classrooms. Consequently, ecosystems are made up of partners representing K-12 public and private education, business and industry, after-school providers, non-profits, STEM-rich institutions, government and philanthropy.

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