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State leaders take part in STEM Day at the Capitol
2019 I.O.W.A. STEM Teacher Award recipients were recognized

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa – The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council hosted STEM Day at the Capitol, with nearly 200 Iowans showcasing their contributions to STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). The event was held on February 13, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Capitol Rotunda.

STEM Day at the Capitol is an array of 32, in-school and out-of-school displays, showcasing the state's assets in STEM, ranging from non-profits to Hub Institutions, from the STEM Scale-Up Program partners to the STEM BEST® Network and from K-12 to business and industry leaders.

Gov. Kim Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg were joined by Senator Amy Sinclair, Senator Bill Dotzler, Representative Cecil Dolecheck, Representative Dave Jacoby, Accumold President and CEO Roger Hargens and Kemin Industries Vice President and General Counsel Libby Nelson to highlight the importance of STEM education and its progress in Iowa.

The program included recognition of the 2019 I.O.W.A. STEM Teacher Award recipients, including:

- Matthew Eddy, agricultural teacher and CASE curriculum leader at Southeast Polk High School
- Ann Gritzner, science teacher and Project Based Learning teacher leader at Central Community High School
- Jacob Hunter, agricultural science teacher at North Scott High School
- Sharon Jaeschke, math teacher and robotics coach at Southeast Valley High School
- JoAnne Sackett, Explore Lab teacher at Okoboji Elementary School
- Lacy West, 7th and 8th grade science teacher at Missouri Valley Middle School

Legislators visited with exhibitors, including students and leaders from higher education, K-12, non-profits, business and industry and more, to learn how they are shaping tomorrow's STEM leaders and building STEM-literate, workforce-ready citizens for Iowa. Collins Aerospace sponsored the event.

Following STEM Day at the Capitol, there was a reception at Kemin Industries to honor all past and present recipients of the I.O.W.A. STEM Teacher Award, in honor of the 5th year of the award. Governor Reynolds was present at the reception and said a few words to thank the educators for their commitment to STEM education in Iowa. There were also exhibits and tours of Kemin Industries open to the teachers, as well as refreshments and networking.

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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 Council is co-chaired by Governor Kim Reynolds and Accumold President and CEO Roger Hargens. For more information, visit www.iowaSTEM.gov.