

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **STEM Council shows positive results in 2015-2016 Iowa STEM Evaluation Report**

*Students in STEM programs on average score higher in mathematics and science on Iowa Assessments and other metrics*

**CEDAR FALLS, Iowa** – This morning, the Iowa Governor's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Advisory Council shared the results from its 2015-2016 independent evaluation that measures the success of the STEM Council's efforts in advancing STEM education toward economic development across the state.

Highlights of the 306-page Iowa STEM Evaluation Report include:

- Students who participated in the [STEM Scale-Up Program](#), a program of the STEM Council that brings STEM programs to students around Iowa, scored an average of seven percentage points higher in National Percentile Rank on the Iowa Assessments in mathematics, six percentage points higher in science and four percentage points higher in reading.
- The percent of students who said they were very interested in someday working in Iowa was 45% of STEM Scale-Up Program participants compared to 39% of students statewide.
- Nine in 10 Iowans thought STEM education should be a priority in their local school districts, but only 46% said it actually is a priority.
- 46 Corporate Partners contributed \$559,239 in 2015-2016, a 20% increase in private investments over 2014-2015.

"As co-chair of the STEM Council for the past five years, I've seen how the growing emphasis on STEM is transforming learning across the state," said Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds at the Governor's press conference this morning. "STEM provides students with knowledge, confidence and problem-solving skills that will help them succeed in their personal and professional lives. STEM provides educators with professional development that redefines the classroom, including working with business partners, so what students learn is more relevant and linked to the real world."

In addition to these Council-driven gains, evaluators also found more students are taking Advanced Placement (AP) STEM courses, more females are pursuing STEM degrees at Iowa's 4-year public universities, more high school teachers are earning a STEM endorsement and more students are aspiring to earn a STEM degree compared to five years ago.

"This annual report provides vital information for the STEM Council to determine areas of strength for the program as well as areas for improvement," said Kemin Industries President and CEO Dr. Chris Nelson, co-chair of the STEM Council. "The results will shape our programming and develop stronger connections as STEM education efforts continue to move forward in our state."

This independent evaluation is conducted by an inter-university consortium of Iowa State University's Research Institute for Studies in Education (RISE), University of Iowa's Iowa Testing Program and the University of Northern Iowa's Center for Social and Behavioral Research (CSBR). Key findings of this year's report range from measuring public attitudes and awareness of STEM to interest and achievement among Iowa students. The evaluation is funded in part by the STEM Council and a grant from the National Science Foundation.

To view the entire report, please visit <http://IowaSTEM.gov/iowa-stem-evaluation>.

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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 47-member STEM Council is chaired by Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds and Kemin Industries President and CEO Dr. Chris Nelson. For more information, visit [www.iowaSTEM.gov](http://www.iowaSTEM.gov).