

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Iowa STEM Council announces invitation for STEM programs to scale across Iowa** *2015-2016 STEM programs reached one-sixth of preK-12 youth in the state*

**CEDAR FALLS, Iowa** – Today, the Iowa Governor's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Advisory Council released a nationwide invitation for STEM programs to compete for a unique partnership that allows them to 'scale' across Iowa during the 2017-2018 academic year.

Each year, the STEM Council cost-shares with STEM program providers to deliver the programs to roughly 2,000 educators both in and out of the classroom at little or no cost through the [STEM Scale-Up Program](#). Since 2012, the program has impacted nearly 100,000 preK-12 youth every year from rural to urban settings and across gender, age, race and ethnicity. Results from the [2015-16 Iowa STEM Evaluation Report](#) show that on the Iowa Assessments, students who participate in the STEM Scale-Up Program score on average seven percentage points higher in National Percentile Rank in mathematics, six higher in science and four higher in reading.

"Iowa's STEM Scale-Up program was conceived by leaders on the STEM Council as a means for leveling the playing field across our state and bringing top-quality STEM to PreK-12 learners regardless of their zip code," said STEM Council Executive Director Dr. Jeff Weld. "Now entering year six of the program, outstanding STEM providers have equipped and inspired thousands of educators to ignite the dreams of a quarter million young Iowans in STEM."

[The current list of programs in the STEM Scale-Up Program](#) will be asked to reapply alongside other potential new partners who will compete for a spot on the 2017-2018 menu of offerings that Iowa's educators can apply for in January 2017. Selected programs will demonstrate through their proposals clear evidence of success in increasing student interest and achievement in STEM, as well as inspiring students of diverse backgrounds and abilities by driving school-business partnerships with workplaces in Iowa.

For the third year in a row, the STEM Council will partner with the national STEM organization, [Change the Equation](#), that works to build a national registry of qualifying STEM programs, known as the STEMworks Database. The partnership enables applicants to submit simultaneously for STEMworks listing and Iowa's STEM Scale-Up Program menu. They will be evaluated through Change the Equation's rigorous Design Principles for effectiveness as well as additional state-specific criteria to assess their readiness to expand in Iowa.

"Change the Equation is honored to help the STEM Council identify the most effective STEM programs for its STEM Scale-Up Program," said Change the Equation CEO Linda Rosen. "Iowa remains one of a handful of visionary states that are committed to supporting effective STEM programs that can prove they deliver a return on the investment. The collaboration between Change the Equation and the STEM Council embodies this critical principle."

The most competitive proposals may come from a variety of sources, including academic institutions, nonprofit organizations or the private sector and will be those that are clearly evidence-based and well-planned, targeting areas of need in Iowa and readily scalable across the state. The proposal form is located at [http://changetheequation.org/stemworks\\_application/home/index.php](http://changetheequation.org/stemworks_application/home/index.php) and must be submitted by 5:00 pm on Monday, October 10, 2016.

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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. The STEM Council works to engage and prepare students for a career-ready workforce path, regain the 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. Governor Kim Reynolds and Kemin Industries President and CEO Dr. Chris Nelson. 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.