GREATNESS STEMS FROM IOWANS

GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL
dedicated to building a strong STEM education foundation for all Iowans

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Thousands of Iowa students to code computers this week
Six Iowa schools win $21,000 in technology awards for "Hour of Code" participation

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa – The Iowa Governor's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Advisory Council, in partnership with NewBoCo in Cedar Rapids, set the stage today for Computer Science Education Week by bringing coding to thousands of young Iowans.

This opportunity, referred to as "Code Iowa," localizes Code.org's "Hour of Code," an international effort to introduce millions of students around the world to at least one hour of computer coding. In Iowa, more than 500 schools and organizations, amounting to thousands of students, will take part in coding beginning today through December 11.

"Every aspect of young people's lives involve computing—how they communicate, learn, entertain, travel, indeed how they stay healthy with fitness trackers and food apps and more," said Dr. Jeff Weld, executive director of the STEM Council. "'Code Iowa' takes them behind the screen to produce rather than to merely consume technology, launching lifelong interest we hope in the great IT careers that await across our state."

Many of Iowa's participating schools and organizations competed for technology awards as part of "Code Iowa." Thanks to the generous support of Google and Verizon, one $3,500 award in each of the six STEM regions will be presented across Iowa this week. Awards were based on how applicants plan to implement an hour of computer coding into this week's curriculum or activities.

All media representatives are welcome to visit the awarded schools below to see the "Hour of Code" in action. Please contact Angel Mendez, STEM Council communications manager, if interested in attending at 785-741-5267:

- Humboldt Community School District, Mease Elementary, Dakota City — Fri., December 9, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- Highland Elementary School, Waterloo — Mon., December 5, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.
- Spirit Lake Elementary School, Spirit Lake — Tues., December 6, 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- Knoxville Community School District, Northstar Elementary, Knoxville — Mon., December 5, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
- Grant Wood Elementary School, Iowa City — Tues., December 6, 12:45 to 2:45 p.m.
- Tri-Center Middle School, Neola — Wed., December 7, 1:00-1:43 p.m.

All schools and organizations in Iowa that registered for the "Hour of Code" are recognized as Certified Code Iowa Partners through the STEM Council and will receive information about free Computer Science educator workshops in 2017. For more information on Code Iowa, please visit www.IowaSTEM.gov/CodeIowa.

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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.

About Code.org

Launched in 2013, Code.org® is a non-profit dedicated to expanding access to computer science, and increasing participation by women and underrepresented students of color. Our vision is that every student in every school should have the opportunity to learn computer science. We believe computer science should be part of core curriculum, alongside other courses such as biology, chemistry or algebra.