

MEDIA RELEASE

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Google pledges \$20,000 to STEM Council for 'Code Iowa' *Investment allows the program to continue into its second year in Iowa*

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa – The Iowa Governor's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Advisory Council received \$20,000 from Google to support "[Code Iowa](#)," a program of the STEM Council focused on computer science in Iowa.

This is the second time Google has funded "Code Iowa," which focuses on increasing Iowa's participation in Code.org's international effort called, "[The Hour of Code](#)." Last December, more than 450 schools took part in the event, and 50 schools signed up through the STEM Council to become a "Certified Code Iowa Partner." Google's first, \$20,000 contribution allowed the STEM Council to award five schools across Iowa with \$4,000 technology awards for participating in the "Hour of Code" during Computer Science Education Week.

"Code Iowa' came to life through Google's support, and their contribution has inspired more of Iowa's young women and men to consider a career in computer programming, web development and more," said Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, co-chair of the STEM Council. "With the help of Google, we will be able to focus our efforts on meeting the demand in Iowa for a stronger, STEM-literate workforce, specifically in computer science."

According to Code.org statistics, Iowa currently has nearly 4,500 open computing jobs with only 358 computer science graduates to fill them, which is a demand 3.1 times the state average.

"The demand for more STEM-talented workers in Iowa is very similar across all STEM fields, but it is safe to say that the demand for jobs in computer science is needed consistently by nearly all of Iowa's businesses," said Dr. Chris Nelson, Kemin Industries president and CEO and co-chair of the STEM Council. "We see technology in almost every aspect of our daily lives, and businesses have become reliant on it for their success. Google's gift will, in the long run, allow the STEM Council to benefit businesses across the state."

Google began in 1998 as a search engine that has grown to include features such as Gmail, Google Maps, YouTube, Google+ and more. These additions came with a demand for more employees able to work in fields like engineering and design to developer relations and technical solutions. In fact, Google opened a data center in Council Bluffs in 2007 and has invested \$2.5 billion in Iowa and created more than 300 jobs.

"Google has grown tremendously in the last 17 years with the help of a talented workforce that is interested and educated in the computer science realm," said Chris Russell, Google Council Bluffs Data Center Manager. "With a data center in Council Bluffs, Google is committed to helping grow Iowa's workforce needed to fill the computer science-related jobs in our facilities, as well as those roles across the state."

This year, Computer Science Education Week is Dec. 7-13, 2015. Those schools that plan to participate during that week and submit a proposal to the STEM Council and Code.org will be eligible for technology awards. Interested schools must create a plan on how they will organize every student to do the "Hour of Code" at their school at www.IowaSTEM.gov/Codelowa by Nov. 16, 2015.

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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 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.