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## **Iowa STEM Council announces 2016 I.O.W.A. STEM Teacher Award**

*Nominations now open for K-12 STEM teachers in Iowa*

**DES MOINES, IOWA** – The Iowa Governor's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Advisory Council, in partnership with [Kemin Industries](#), launches the second year of the I.O.W.A. STEM Teacher Award with a call for nominations of Iowa's best K-12 STEM educators in the state.

"Iowa's educators are critical to the future of STEM fields," said Jeff Weld, executive director of the STEM Council. "It's important that we continue to do all we can to support them, and recognizing their passion and drive for STEM education is just one way we are doing that. Kemin has developed a generous award program, enabling us to honor the outstanding teaching happening in Iowa and the impact that it has on cultivating a curiosity in STEM fields."

The award will honor one full time, licensed K-12 teacher from each of the six STEM regions across the state for their ability to inspire and encourage students to develop an interest in STEM in and out of the classroom. The six teachers selected will each receive an award of \$1,500, with an additional \$1,500 designated for use in their classroom.

"We're honored to support Iowa's educators for all they do to engage young minds and increase awareness of the vast opportunities available in today's STEM fields," said Dr. Chris Nelson, co-chair of the STEM Council and Kemin president and CEO. "STEM is at the base of our business, and we appreciate teacher's efforts to express the enormous impact students can make in these careers, for not just themselves, but in the lives of all Iowans and beyond."

"A priority of the STEM Council is to increase student's interest in STEM subjects by creating classroom environments that foster high levels of achievement while actively engaging businesses to support this work," said Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, co-chair of the STEM Council. "With the generous support from Kemin, we are able to progress on this goal for Iowa students, as well as recognize the great instruction these teachers are providing."

Anyone can nominate a teacher by visiting [stemaward.fluidreview.com](http://stemaward.fluidreview.com) through December 11, 2015. Once nominated, teachers will fill out an application to be reviewed by a panel of judges who will select the six award recipients. Honorees will be announced in April 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 (STEM). The 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 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).

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