TOMORROW STEMS FROM IOWA

GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

dedicated to building a strong STEM education foundation for all Iowans

Northeast Iowa STEM Advisory Board Meeting

Monday, August 17, 2026
9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

LOCATION:
Virtual

AGENDA

A. Welcome and Introductions

B. Budget/Expenditures
   a. FY26 Year End
   b. FY27 YTD Budget

C. FY26 Year-End Report – Northeast STEM Region

D. Update on Scale-Up Awards

E. STEM Festivals
   a. Healthcare Career Pathway Day – September 29 in Dubuque
   b. Northeast Iowa Family STEM Festival – October 8 in Monticello

F. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

G. FY27 meeting dates

H. Iowa STEM Council updates
   a. STEM Teacher Award
   b. STEM BEST application opens
   c. Iowa STEM Summit

I. Announcements

Jeff Beneke, STEM Regional Manager • University of Northern Iowa • 214 East Bartlett Hall • Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614-0396
Telephone: 319-273-7397 • E-mail: jeff.beneke@uni.edu • neiowastem.com
Facebook: NEIASTEM • X: @NE_IA_STEM

Upcoming Events:

- September 1 STEM BEST application opens
- September 29 Healthcare Career Pathway Day
- October 8 Northeast Iowa Family STEM Festival - Monticello
- September 30 STEM Teacher nomination close
- November 3 STEM BEST application closes
- November 6 STEM Summit

STEM Review Committees:

Iowa STEM Teacher Award Selection
Review period: November 7 - December 7 (estimated dates)
Time commitment: approximately 3-12 hours

Evaluate nominations/applications to select the Iowa STEM Teacher awardees. Six educators selected (one per region).

Current committee members (5): Lisa Chizek, Larry Escalada, Chelsie Byram, Stacey Snyder, and Jeff Jacobs

STEM BEST Selection
Review period: November 13 – December 7 (estimated dates)
Time commitment: approximately 3-12 hours.

Evaluate applications for Iowa STEM Business Engaging Students and Teachers (BEST) proposals from across the state. Proposals provide schools with the opportunity to work with business partners on real-world projects. Evaluators will be assigned to a team of 3, they score individually and then discuss discrepant questions only at a Confidence meeting where each team coordinates scheduling. Teams are assigned 3-5 proposals for review. They are assigned to either review New Schools or Returning School applications, not both.

Current committee members (4): Bev Berns, Doreen Hayek, Marcy Seavey and Allison Plunkett

Scale-Up Awardee Selection
Review period: March
Time commitment: approximately 2-4 hours

Evaluate applications submitted by educators throughout region requesting Scale-Up programs on the 2027-28 menu.

Current committee members: All board members

Jeff Beneke, STEM Regional Manager • University of Northern Iowa • 214 East Bartlett Hall • Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614-0396
Telephone: 319-273-7397 • E-mail: jeff.beneke@uni.edu • neiowastem.com
Facebook: NEIASTEM • X: @NE_IA_STEM