TOMORROW STEMS FROM IOWA | UNI University of Northern Iowa

NORTHEAST IOWA REGION GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

Advisory Board Meeting Summary

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

Location: Virtual

Board Members Present

Bev Berns (Vice Chair) Keystone AEA	X	**Seth Harms** West Delaware High School	X	**Anderson Sainci** City of Dubuque	
Ally Boziel MercyOne in Dubuque	X	**Doreen Hayek (Chair)** University of Northern Iowa	X	**Barb Schwamman** Keystone AEA	X
Sue Burrack Waldorf University	X	**Jeff Jacobs** TDS Automation	X	**Dylan Shaffer** Monticello Community Schools	X
Rachel Dillavou Boys & Girls Club of the Cedar Valley	X	**Marla Loecke** Iowa Workforce Development	X	**Stacey Snyder** Retired Teacher	
Larry Escalada University of Northern Iowa	X	**Allison Plunkett** John Deere Dubuque Works	X		

X – Present

Others in Attendance: Jeff Beneke (Northeast Iowa Regional STEM Hub), and Ann Gritzner (Iowa STEM Council).

Meeting Summary

Doreen called the board meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Budget/Expenditures

Beneke presented the fiscal year 2026 year-end financial statement, noting that the Northeast Region had an unexpended balance of approximately $1,900 under the Scale-Up/Festival contract.

As of July 31, 2026, year-to-date expenditures for the Northeast Iowa STEM Hub totaled approximately $14,100 representing about 6% of the fiscal year 2027 budget.

FY26 Year-End Report – Northeast Iowa STEM Region
Beneke reviewed the Northeast Iowa STEM Hub's FY2026 year-end report and distributed copies to Board members.

FY27 Scale-Up Programming
Beneke provided an update on the FY2027 Scale-Up programming.

STEM Festivals
The Healthcare Career Pathway Day will be September 29 from 8:00 AM to noon at Dubuque Senior High School in Dubuque. Exhibitor registration deadline is September 1. The event is primarily for students grades 9-12 in Dubuque Community Schools.

The Northeast Iowa Family STEM Festival will be held on Thursday, October 8 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM in Monticello. Exhibitor registration deadline is September 30. The event is primarily for students in grades PK-8 and will be marketed to public and private schools within a 30-mile radius of Monticello.

Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair
Motion by Berns, seconded by Burack, to appoint Hayek as Chair of the 2026-2027 Northeast Iowa Regional STEM Advisory Board. Motion carried.

Motion by Plunkett, seconded by Hayek, to appoint Berns as Vice-Chair of the 2026-2027 Northeast Iowa Regional STEM Advisory Board. Motion carried.

FY27 meeting dates
Meetings were scheduled for the remainder of the calendar year.

- October 23 10:00 AM to Noon TBD
- December 11 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM Virtual
- January 29 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM Virtual
- March 26 10:00 AM to Noon TBD
- May 21 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM Virtual

Iowa STEM Council updates
Ann noted that the STEM BEST application will open September 1 and nominations for the Iowa STEM Teacher Award ends September 30.

This summer, 95 externs – including 18 from Northeast Iowa- were placed with 78 unique workplace hosts. The only change this year was an increase in the extern hourly pay rate from $20 to $22. Of the 18 externs from Northeast Iowa, six had participated in the program previously, while 12 were new participants. The Northeast Iowa externs included five elementary teachers, two math teachers, two computer science teachers, six science teachers and three teachers who did not fall into the categories listed above.

The Iowa STEM Summit will be held on November 6 at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines.

Announcements
The Northeast Iowa STEM Hub is looking for volunteers to review STEM Teacher Award applications and STEM BEST applications. The review period for the STEM Teacher applications will be October 20 through November 9 and sometime during the week of November 9 there will be a confidence meeting between the review team. The review period for STEM BEST applications will be November 6 through November 15 and sometime during the week of November 16 there will be a confidence meeting between the review team.

Please email Jeff if you are interested in volunteering for either or both opportunities.

Important Dates

Event/Activity	Date	Time	Location
STEM BEST application opens	September 1	NA	NA
Healthcare Career Pathway Day	September 29	8:00 AM to Noon	Dubuque Senior High School
STEM Teacher Award Nomination Deadline	September 30	NA	NA
Northeast Iowa Family STEM Festival	October 8	4:00 PM to 7:00 PM	Monticello
STEM BEST application Deadline	November 3	NA	NA
Iowa STEM Summit	November 6	9:00 AM to 3:00 PM	Iowa Events Center, Des Moines

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.

The next meeting is planned as an in-person meeting on October 23. Location to-be-determined.