



**Advisory Board Meeting Summary**

Thursday, December 19, 2024

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Location: Virtual

**Board Members Present**

<b>Bev Burns</b> Keystone AEA	X	<b>Waiting for Appointment</b>		<b>Waiting for Appointment</b>	
<b>Sue Burrack</b> Waldorf University	X	<b>Waiting for Appointment</b>		<b>Jeanette Moore-Loggins</b> Alliant Energy	X
<b>Waiting for Appointment</b>		<b>Waiting for Appointment</b>		<b>Waiting for Appointment</b>	
<b>Kendra Crooks</b> Extension and Outreach	X	<b>Waiting for Appointment</b>		<b>Waiting for Appointment</b>	
<b>Waiting for Appointment</b>		<b>Waiting for Appointment</b>		<b>Waiting for Appointment</b>	

X – Present

**Others in Attendance:** Jeff Beneke (Northeast Iowa Regional STEM Hub), Justin Lewis (Iowa STEM Council), Doreen Hayek (University of Northern Iowa), Jeff Jacobs (TDS Automation), Seth Harms (West Delaware High School), Larry Escalada (University of Northern Iowa), Marla Loecke (IowaWORKS), and Allison Plunkett (John Deere)

**Meeting Summary**

The board meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM.

## **FY25 Budget/Expenditures**

As of November 30, 2024, the Northeast STEM Hub has spent approximately \$296,000 in fiscal year 2024, representing about 40% of the total budget.

## **STEM BEST**

Statewide, the STEM Council received 33 applications for the STEM BEST Enhancement Grant, awarding 13 of them. In the Northeast STEM region, two applications were submitted, with one awarded to the Waterloo Career Center.

Under the STEM BEST Program Application for New Schools, the Council received 17 applications, including two from the Northeast region. These applications are still under review.

Under the STEM BEST Program Application for Returning Schools, the Council received 17 applications, including two from the Northeast region. These applications are still under review.

## **STEM Teacher Award**

The STEM Council received 118 unique nominations statewide, including 26 from the Northeast region. Of those 26 nominees from the Northeast, 19 teachers (73%) applied for the IOWA STEM Teacher Award.

Award recipients will be announced in January and honored at STEM Day at the Capitol on February 12.

## **STEM Festivals**

The Cedar Valley Family STEM Festival took place on Tuesday, October 29, from 4 PM to 7 PM at the "W" on Wartburg College's campus. The event drew 855 participants, offering 51 interactive STEM exhibits. Jeff presented the festival report to the committee, highlighting those attendees came from 19 different communities, with approximately 70% residing in Waverly. The largest age groups represented were K-5 students and adults.

## **Scale-Up Programs**

Thirteen programs were selected to be scaled during the 2025-26 academic year. Beneke provided a summary on each program and noted ten programs are new to the menu this year. Two of the 13 programs are delivered by Iowa organizations.

The 2025-26 Scale-Up educator application opens January 7 and closes March 3. The board discussed marketing strategies.

### Scale-Up Timeline:

- January 7 – Application opened
- March 3 – Deadline for an educator to apply for a Scale-Up program.
- **March 5 – 22 Advisory Board reviews applications.**
- Week of March 31 - Board meeting to discuss applications and recommend awards.
- April 4 – Awards are announced to educators.

The Scale-Up application submissions will occur through [iowagrants.gov](http://iowagrants.gov).

## **Iowa STEM Council Updates**

Justin noted that the STEM Advisory Council is scheduled to meet on February 11 in Des Moines, followed by STEM Day at the Capitol on February 12.

The STEM Council is currently recruiting hosts for the STEM Externship Program, which will take place in the summer of 2025.

### Important Dates

Event/Activity	Date	Time	Location
Scale-Up Educator Application opens	January 7	8:00AM	Virtual
STEM Day at the Capitol	February 12	10:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Des Moines
Scale-Up Educator Application closes	March 3	4:59 PM	NA
Northeast Regional STEM Advisory Board meeting	March	11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Oelwein

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 9.