



Advisory Board Meeting Summary

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

11:00 AM to 1:00PM

Location: RAMS Center in Oelwein

Board Members Present

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

X – Present V - Virtual

Others in Attendance: Jeff Beneke (Northeast Iowa Regional STEM Hub), Ann Gritzner (Iowa STEM Council), Doreen Hayek (University of Northern Iowa), Jeff Jacobs (TDS Automation), Larry Escalada (University of Northern Iowa), Heather Fransen (RSM, LLP), Marla Loecke (Iowa*WORKS*), Seth Harms (West Delaware High School), Anderson Sainci (City of Dubuque), and Allison Plunkett (John Deere Dubuque Works).

Meeting Summary

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

Budget/Expenditures

As of February 28, 2025, year-to-date expenditures for the Northeast Iowa STEM Hub totaled approximately \$339,834, representing about 46% of the overall fiscal year 2025 budget.

IOWA STEM Teacher Award

The Northeast Iowa STEM Teacher Award was presented to Dan Kuchera of Clarksville High School. The STEM Hub recognized Mr. Kuchera with an initial presentation at the high school on January 13. A formal award ceremony will take place in February during STEM Day at the Capitol.

Scale-Up Programs

The 2025-26 Scale-Up application closed March 4. The Northeast STEM region received 111 applications (602 applications statewide) representing 226 educators and 13,389 students. Total request for the region was approximately \$710,000. According to the STEM Council, the 2025-2026 appropriation for the Northeast Region is budgeted at approximately \$550,000 toward Scale-Up programming and STEM festivals.

A breakdown was provided outlining the number of applications submitted by program, organization type (Public School, Private School, Home School, and Informal), and the population served. Highlights include:

- A total of 81 school buildings or organizations were represented in the application pool.
- 12 organizations (14.8%) were first-time applicants.
- 75 applications were submitted by organizations classified as rural.
- 60 applications were received from public schools.
- 17 applications came from organizations offering informal learning opportunities.

Jeff thanked the Board members for evaluating applications. The Board reviewed and discussed the applications for each Scale-Up program. Key considerations included whether the applicant was a first-time participant, the geographic distribution of awards across the region, the number of awards granted to individual school buildings or organizations, the number of awards per educator, prior participation in the program, whether the application introduced a new program or expanded an existing one, and the projected number of students impacted.

Following a thorough review, 84 applications—representing 182 educators—were recommended for funding in the Northeast Iowa STEM Region for the 2025–26 academic year.

Future Meeting Date

The next Regional STEM Advisory Board meeting will be held virtually on May 21 from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

Iowa STEM Council Updates

Justin had mentioned that he has had several meetings with the new Lieutenant Governor. No further updates.

Other Updates

Larry mentioned the University of Northern Iowa is hosting the Science Education Update Conference on April 4, followed by an OpenSciEd Workshop on April 5.

Kendra mentioned Extension will be rolling out a new fishing club for Grades 4-12 soon. Youth will have the opportunity to learn about Iowa's aquatic ecosystems, improve fishing techniques, enter tournaments,

and more!

Doreen mentioned the Midwest FIRST Robotics Competition will take place at the UNI-Dome on March 27 through March 29. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Announcements

The Northeast Iowa Family STEM festival will be held on April 24 in Waukon.

Important Dates

Event/Activity	Date	Time	Location
Scale-Up Program Awards announced	April 4	NA	NA
Northeast Iowa Family STEM Festival - Waukon	April 24	4:00 PM to 7:00 PM	Fairgrounds in Waukon
Regional Board meeting	May 21	11:00 AM to 12:30PM	Virtual
Scale-Up Training begins	July 14	Various times	Various locations
STEM Day at the Iowa State Fair	August 17	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Des Moines

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21 from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM.