



Advisory Board Meeting Summary

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Location: Virtual

Board Members Present

Bev Burns Keystone AEA	X	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

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.

Budget/Expenditures

As of April 30, 2025, year-to-date expenditures for the Northeast Iowa STEM Hub totaled approximately \$632,347 representing about 85% of the overall fiscal year 2025 budget.

Jeff presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026.

Scale-Up Programs

Agreements are written and are being reviewed internally. Training dates for this summer are nearly complete. Once finalized, the training list will be shared with board members. Board members are welcome to attend in-person or virtual training. Please let Jeff know if you plan to attend a training, so he can notify the trainer.

All applicants and educators have been notified of their Scale-Up awards. Non-awardees have also been notified.

STEM Festivals

The Northeast Iowa Family STEM Festival took place on Thursday, April 24, from 4 PM to 7 PM at the Fairgrounds in Waukon. The event drew 359 participants, offering 23 interactive STEM exhibits. Jeff presented the festival report to the committee, highlighting those attendees came from 10 different communities, with approximately 66% residing in Waukon. The largest age groups represented were PreK-2 students and adults.

Jeff presented the Board with a map and spreadsheet representing festival locations between 2012 to present as well as attendance and number of exhibitors.

During FY26, the plan is to host the Cedar Valley Family STEM Festival on October 16 again in Waverly and the Northeast Iowa Family STEM Festival in Waukon on April 30 at the Waukon High School. The Hub may host one additional event in Chickasaw County in the Spring.

Teacher Externship Update

Currently, the STEM Council has placed 72 teachers for the STEM teacher extern program. There are 16 teachers located at businesses and organizations in the Northeast. We still have a business host in Cresco and Dubuque looking for a teacher extern this summer.

Board Appointments

Board Appointments will begin July 1, 2025. Applications will no longer be submitted to the Boards and Commission rather a google form.

Volunteers with the six Regional STEM Advisory Boards shall be appointed by STEM Council co-chairs in conjunction with the STEM Council executive director

Appointees with the Regional STEM Advisory Boards will serve staggered three-year terms and may serve a total of three full 3-year terms, unless special permission for extended terms are approved. A Board appointee who has served three full 3-year terms may reapply for a regional board after one year.

Each Regional STEM Advisory Board will have a minimum of 11 and a maximum of 15 volunteers with various expertise and qualifications representing five professional sectors.

- **PK-12 Educational Practitioner** - May include representatives from: Public or Private School and School District (e.g., administrator, teacher, PK student/parent, School Board member).
- **Business/Industry and Economic Development** - May include representatives from: Business/Industry member, Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, Regional Workforce Development or related stakeholder.
- **Non-Profit Organizations and Youth Agencies** - May include representatives from: County Extension and Outreach, Homeschool, Library, Childcare Center, Boys & Girls Club, Head Start, Museum, YMCA, YWCA or related stakeholder.
- **Higher Education** - May include representatives of institutions of higher education: Community College, Public or Private College/University, including Hub institution representative.
- **Community Stakeholders** - May include representatives from: community STEM advocate, retired community member, Board of Supervisors, City Council, Area Education Agency or related stakeholders.

A Regional STEM Advisory Board will consist of at least two representatives from each of these sectors: the PK-12 Educational Practitioner sector, Business/Industry and Economic Development sector, Higher Education sector and Non-Profit Organizations and Youth Agencies sector. The remaining Board members may represent any one of the five professional sectors; however, consideration will be given to maintaining a relative balance in representation across stakeholder groups. Individual members may fulfill more than one required representation.

FY26 meeting dates

August

Iowa STEM Council Updates

Announcements

Youth Ambassador group. Board positions include 21 MS/HS and 6 collegiate students.

Important Dates

Event/Activity	Date	Time	Location
STEM BEST Symposium	June 8-10	All Day	Ames
Scale-Up Provider Application opens	July 7	8:00 AM	NA
Scale-Up Training begins	July 14	NA	Throughout the State
Scale-Up Provider Application closes	August 13	4:59 PM	NA
STEM Day at the State Fair	August 17	9:00 AM to 6:00 PM	Des Moines
Cedar Valley STEM Festival	October 16	4:00 PM to 7:00 PM	Waverly

STEM Summit	October 17	All Day	Des Moines
Northeast Regional STEM Advisory Board meeting		11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 9.