



Advisory Board Meeting Summary

Thursday, October 10, 2024

10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

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	
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), Ann Gritzner (Iowa STEM Council), Doreen Hayek (University of Northern Iowa), Jeff Jacobs (TDS Automation), Lisa Chizek (Iowa State University), Larry Escalada (University of Northern Iowa), Marla Loecke (IowaWORKS), and Allison Plunkett (John Deere)

Meeting Summary

The board meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

Budget/Expenditures

Jeff noted with UNI’s transition to Iowa Works, the budget is not ready to present.

Scale-Up Program

Everything seems to be running smoothly with implementation. All the training sessions will be complete by the next Board meeting.

STEM BEST

The STEM BEST application opened on October 7. Public and private schools can apply for up to \$40,000 under either the New School or Returning School application, with a 50% matching funds requirement. The application closes December 11. A map showcasing previous awardees across the Northeast STEM region was shared with the Board.

The STEM BEST® Enhancement Grant opens on Monday, October 14. This funding opportunity supports existing STEM BEST® Program models by offering up to \$10,000 to address unforeseen needs arising after the initial award period has ended. The grant is intended to enhance or improve current models, not to provide continuous funding or sustain programs. No cost-share is required. Applications for the Enhancement Grant closes on November 13.

Externship Program

A total of 78 teacher externs were placed with hosts across the state, including 15 in the Northeast region. Applications are currently open for businesses and organizations interested in hosting a teacher extern during the summer of 2025. The application for teachers to apply will open in the coming weeks.

STEM Teacher Award

The IOWA STEM Teacher Award Program will begin accepting nominations on Monday, October 14. The deadline to nominate a PreK-12 teacher from either a public or private school is November 15. Nominated teachers will then be required to apply for the award.

STEM Festivals

The Cedar Valley Family STEM Festival will occur Tuesday, October 29 from 4PM to 7PM at the “W” at Wartburg College. Approximately 50 exhibitors have registered as of today.

Board Appointments

A draft of the STEM Regional Advisory Board Nomination and Appointment Proposal was shared. New board appointments are expected to take place after the first of the year.

Future Meeting Dates

The next two meetings will be held virtually on December 19 and January 9, respectively. The remaining meeting dates will be decided upon during a future meeting.

Iowa STEM Council Updates

STEM Day at the Capitol will take place on February 12.

Other Updates

Larry noted the University of Northern Iowa will be hosting the Science Education Conference on Friday, April 4. Teachers are encouraged to invite students.

Important Dates

Event/Activity	Date	Time	Location
STEM BEST Enhancement grant opens	October 14	8:00 AM	NA
IOWA STEM Teacher Award Nominations opens	October 14	8:00 AM	NA
Cedar Valley Family STEM Festival	October 29	4:00 to 7:00 PM	Waverly
STEM BEST Enhancement grant closes	November 13	4:59 PM	NA
IOWA STEM Teacher Award Nominations closes	November 15	4:59 PM	NA
IOWA STEM Teacher Award Application closes	December 4	4:59 PM	NA
STEM BEST Application closes	December 11	4:59 PM	NA
Northeast Regional STEM Advisory Board meeting	December 19	11:00 AM	Virtual

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 19.