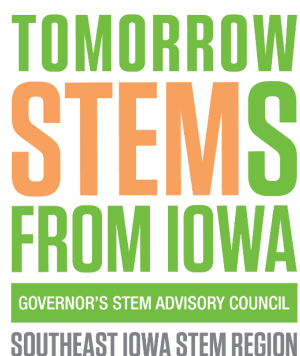




Southeast Region STEM Advisory Board

March, 27 2025, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting: <https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/95666358933>

One tap mobile

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	Welcome and Introductions: Round-robin introductions and sharing about individual roles within STEM regional work. Present: Matt Stier, Jacob Cummer, Trina Weiland, Becky Ruberg, Dan D'Alessandro, Kari Britain, Darrell Currington, Carey Dieleman, Marie McNary, Corey Rogers	Matt
	SE STEM Hub Updates - Festivals: Entering festival season now. Festival in Belle Plaine on Sunday, April 6. Feel free to invite anyone in the area. Collins STEM Day coming up, for the third year in a row. Looking to make it bigger and better; hoping to grow to additional tents and exhibitors, as well as maybe a stage for demonstrations. Festival date is July 17. Board invited to share ideas about exhibitors or other participants we could add. Partnership with Collins, in planning and financial support, is key. Also in conversations with Muscatine Power and Water about a possible festival for fall 2025. Fall can be a lull period for the hub, so this would be exciting timing for us. More information to come. - Scale-Up (see below)	Matt
	STEM Central Operations Updates STEM Day at the Capital: Metro High School and Francis Marion were SE Iowa representatives that day, and they did a great job. Original February date for the event was cancelled due to weather, and the date was held on March 3. Idea is to have representatives from all over the state come to highlight the STEM programming going on in their region. Kari notes this is a great way for legislators to see what's going on and ask questions. Event was started with the governor and other state leaders speaking about the importance of STEM and honoring	Kari & Jake

	the STEM Teacher Award winners. Next year will be February 18. STEM Day at the Fair will be happening again in August and all are invited. Tried and true exhibitor partners and stage shows will be happening again, and new ideas are always welcome. Last year over the noon hour, we featured a high-altitude balloon launch, with dignitaries speaking beforehand. Looking for something now that might match that for this year. Ideas are welcome. • STEM Teacher Awards: Teachers from all six regions were presented with their 2025 Iowa STEM Teacher Award at STEM Day at the Capital. • STEM BEST - Summer Opportunity: Piloting a new opportunity for STEM BEST for current BEST programs that wish to expand to summer opportunities for students. Reviews of those applications are currently under way. • STEM Teacher Externships: Busy time for STEM Teacher Externships coordinator. Externships are a six-week opportunity for teachers to work in their field of study, get paid, and collect ideas to take back to their teaching. Ann Gritzner is currently working on placing upwards of 80 teachers for this summer.	
	SE STEM Advisory Board Member Updates • Dan: April 11 will be the trebuchet-egg toss in the Quad Cities; Dan will serve as judge for student work. This is held at Bettendorf High School. Also, May 9 is the annual Cardboard Boat Regatta, at Bettendorf Lagoon. Dan mentions anyone in the area should feel welcome to come check out either/both events, including as volunteers. • Corey: Has started a new professional role as Education Producer with the Micro:bit Educational Foundation	Team
	Overview of STEM Scale-Up Applications • Much to be proud of with applications this year. 121 applications submitted; 246 educators; serving 29,938 students; \$671,770.10 of funding requested; ~20 new or infrequent organizations/schools. Applicants report hearing about Scale-Up from email from Matt (51), newsletter (16), from their administrators (13), from the STEM website (13), from their AEA (12), and other means (15). Matt reviewed application criteria and tiers for how program-award decisions are reached. Want to be sure we have good geographic, etc. representation across our region. We have about \$550,000 available to fund this program. From this, ~\$15,000 goes to festivals; \$16,000 to training. Matt notes a possibility to fund some of the applicants in Tier 6. We have roughly \$494,000 available for awards. All programs up through Tier 5 can be funded; some applications still be reviewed. Tier 6 would represent second applications from the same org. Could allocate around \$17,000 to this tier.	Matt

	Different programs have different costs, so this factors into the decisions we make on funding programs in this tier. • Question: Past award for the same program (e.g., Positive Physics). How should we consider this? Do we award these orgs a second time, or allocate some of this money to Tier 6? • Question: Multiple applicants from the same org. How do we prioritize these? Based on score? Number of students? Number of educators?	
	Discussion of STEM Scale-Up Award Rank List • Dan mentions some of these programs change over time, which presents a legitimate reason to maybe grant the award. Dan asks whether someone in Tier 6 would benefit more from the award, e.g. Positive Physics. Trina offers that one program in question was awarded just last year, and that maybe a new program should be prioritized. Dan agrees. Matt mentions sustainability as a goal; we seed and spark them, but we don't fund "maintenance." Matt says the decision will be to prioritize funding the new schools. Matt mentions a school with four applications; this school used to be split into two, and has since combined (leading to a doubling size of student body). Four applications are all different (in age levels, programs being sought, number of students/educators on applications, etc.). All four had high review scores. Becky offers that we should focus on which will have the greatest impact on the school; Corey agrees that larger impact should be a focus and priority. Corey offers a new teacher for the computer science program that will reach a lot of kids; Trina agrees. Matt offers this would be consistent with our past practice. Matt asks: if funds are available, are we okay funding All About Balance for younger students in the same school; this would mean three awards for the same building. Matt adds that this is for the newly combined building, and that maybe we first see how much funding remains after awarding other programs. Darrell asks what the long-term use of drone programming is. Matt adds that previous drone programs have been a little mixed on this. This year's program is more similar to the more effective ones from previous years. Dan concurs with Matt on the idea of granting this if money remains. On the question of two apps from the same school, Trina offers that new schools/educators should be prioritized. Matt and others concur. Matt adds that he does a review of our application reviews, especially looking for score discrepancies (multiple reviewers for each), and to be sure some of these extra considerations are	Team

	being considered in final awards. Matt says he has a final list, and that he will be reviewing those to be sure we have everything we need and have not missed anything. Awardees will be notified in a week or so, by email. Budgets will be shared out after that, and professional development will begin getting scheduled.	
	Next Meeting: May, 15 2025 11 am	