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**Application Opens for STEM BEST® + HD Program to Bring Workplace Experience to the Classroom**

*STEM BEST + HD Program brings schools and businesses together to provide students with career-linked learning opportunities to prepare for the future*

**Cedar Falls, Iowa (October 3, 2022)** – The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council is now accepting applications for the STEM BEST® (*Business Engaging Students and Teachers*) + HD (*High Demand*) Program, which brings schools and businesses together to provide students with real workplace experiences to explore and develop high demand skills. The program equips students to experience the industry or business environment firsthand and offers an introduction to career opportunities, allowing students exposure to high demand skills required for workplace and future success.

"Career-linked, or work-based learning is more than learning a singular skill or trade," says Jeff Weld, executive director of the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council. "By focusing the STEM BEST Program on high demand skills, such as innovative thinking, data analysis, problem-solving, creativity and collaboration, among other skills, we are supporting our schools and their employer-partners in providing students with the tools and knowledge needed for post-secondary success."

The STEM BEST Program supports teachers and industry professionals in developing a work-based learning model that incorporates STEM subjects like mathematics and science with experiential learning opportunities to emphasize the necessary high demand skills needed for the workplace. Incentive funds can be used for curriculum development and coordination, educator training and development in workplace-classroom integration, and preparing the work-based learning environment.

This opportunity is available to Iowa public and non-public school districts and buildings serving students in grades K-12. The deadline for submitting applications is December 14, 2022.

The funds can be used for:

- Facility upgrades
- Purchase of industry grade equipment
- Innovative instructional space
- Time for program planning with partners
- Travel needs
- Integrating curriculum into existing courses

The STEM BEST + HD Program application will open on Monday, October 3. For more information on the STEM BEST + HD Program or to access the application, please visit <https://iowastem.org/STEMBEST>.

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**About the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council:** Established in July 2011 via Governor's Executive Order, the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council is a public-private partnership of educators, companies and Iowa students and families addressing policies and programs designed to improve Iowa's educational system focused on science,

technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The STEM Council works to engage and prepare students for a career-ready workforce path, regain our state's historic leadership position in education and provide a vital competitive economic advantage now, and for the future, to ensure that every Iowa student has access to world-class STEM education opportunities. The 62-member STEM Council is co-chaired by Governor Kim Reynolds and Foundation Analytical Laboratory Owner and Director of Technical Services Diane Young. For more information, visit <https://iowastem.org>.