



## Future Ready Iowa Summit 2021 Transforming Education for the Workforce

**Thursday, September 16, 2021**

**Future Ready Iowa Summit 2021: Transforming Education for the Workforce**

Iowa Events Center - Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center – Level 4 Ballrooms Area  
730 Third Street | Des Moines, Iowa

**9:00 to 9:10 a.m. “Transforming Education for the Workforce”**



Governor Kim Reynolds is the 43rd governor of Iowa, and has the distinction of being the first woman elected to the state’s highest office in November 2018.

Governor Reynolds has a long-standing record of public service, having served four terms as the Clarke County Treasurer before being elected to the Iowa Senate in November 2008. Two years later, as running mate of former Governor Terry Branstad, she was elected Lieutenant Governor and served nearly two terms before succeeding Branstad as Governor of Iowa in May 2017, when he left office to become United States Ambassador to China.

Governor Reynolds’ strong conservative values are reflected in her priorities for Iowa:

- Ensuring Iowa’s economic prosperity is widespread and reaches all Iowans
- Improving access to high-quality, affordable housing and child care for families
- Providing every Iowa student access to a quality education
- Creating universal broadband access statewide by 2025
- Ensuring strong, safe communities
- Improving access to quality health care
- Strengthening Iowa’s agriculture economy

Under her leadership, Iowans have benefitted from:

- The largest tax cut in state history and continued tax reform
- Record investments in public education year-over-year
- Increased access to behavioral and mental health care, including the creation of Iowa’s first Children’s Mental Health System
- Aggressive workforce policy initiatives that will ensure 70 percent of Iowans achieve training or education beyond high school by 2025

	<p>Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, Governor Reynolds maintained a balanced approach to protect the health, lives and livelihoods of all Iowans. Iowa's health care system and resources remained stable, more than 80% of its economy remained open for business, high school sports resumed during the summer of 2020, and schools reopened for the start of a new academic year in August. Iowa's K-12 students are now back in the classroom for 100% in-person learning.</p> <p>Governor Reynolds is also respected nationally for her leadership on important issues ranging from education to economic growth, and has held a number of positions at the regional and national levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Republican Governors Association, Vice Chair</li> <li>• Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG), Vice Chair</li> <li>• American Workforce Policy Advisory Board, Previous Board Member</li> <li>• Governors Biofuels Coalition, Previous Chair</li> <li>• Midwest Governors Association, Previous Chair</li> </ul> <p>Governor Reynolds is proud of her Iowa roots. A small-town, rural Iowa girl at heart, she grew up in Madison County, graduated from Interstate 35 Community Schools in 1977, married her husband Kevin Reynolds in 1982, worked and raised three daughters, and completed her bachelors degree from Iowa State University in 2016 while serving as Lieutenant Governor. The Reynolds' cherish spending time together as a family with their daughters, sons-in-law, and especially their 11 grandchildren... all who live nearby in central Iowa.</p>
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**9:10 to 9:15 a.m. "I'm Depending on You – Prepare Me for the Future!"**

	<p>Langston Saint is a 13 year old high school freshman from Sioux City, Iowa. His early passion for technology and learning led him to become a vocal advocate for public schools. He has spoken at events across the state of Iowa, and has travelled to New York and Connecticut to meet with survivors of school shootings, and to speak out for student safety. Langston is committed to working toward a future where all kids have equal access to an enriching and safe public education.</p>
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**9:15 to 9:40 a.m. Three Iowa Employers: Seeking a Strong Talent Pipeline**

	<p>Kerry Gumm, Head of Learning and Organizational Performance joined Principal in 1998. Within her current role she is responsible for overseeing the strategy, development and execution of the global learning, development, change and workforce development strategies for the organization. Over the last 20+ years, Kerry has held leadership positions in HR Strategy, change management &amp; communications, talent acquisition, HR IT/project management, benefits and diversity and inclusion. In addition to her work within Principal, Kerry has also played leadership roles in several state and national workforce initiatives, working closely on policies aimed to support Principal's long-term talent needs. In 2018, Kerry was named to Aspen Institute's First Movers Fellowship program.</p> <p>A Minnesota native, Kerry received her undergraduate degree from Iowa State University. Kerry sits on the boards for the Ready to Work Business Collaborative, Central Iowa Works and the Des Moines Embassy Club.</p>
	<p>Andrew Roelfs is a Training and Development Manager for Interstates headquartered in Sioux Center, IA. Interstates employs nearly 1200 professionals in the engineering, automation, IT, cybersecurity, data analytics, and construction fields across the US and internationally. Andrew holds an MBA, as well as HR certifications from SHRM and HRCI. In addition, he has nearly ten years of industry experience working in recruiting, human resources, organizational development, and leadership training. During his time at Interstates, he has been awarded the Employer Innovation Fund for work with diversity hiring, and is currently leading a team of nearly 40 recruiting, HR, and training professionals. He is part of industry advisory boards for</p>

	<p>engineering and technical schools and serves on the NW IA STEM Advisory Council. Andrew lives in Sioux Center with his wife and three daughters.</p>
	<p>In 2008, with a passionate desire and clear entrepreneurial vision, Diane Young, a graduate of Iowa State University, chose to leave the security of the corporate world and build an analytical laboratory from the ground up in her home community of Cherokee, Iowa. Her business acumen, as well as her experience with laboratory management and the expertise gained by working with successful companies, sparked her entrepreneurial passion.</p> <p>A proponent of STEM education, Diane started this science-based business to give young, college-educated individuals a reason to return to the Cherokee, Iowa-area. By providing quality, high-paying career opportunities in science and technology, she could attract young talent while enhancing her hometown economy.</p> <p>Starting any business carries a high risk of potential failure; starting an analytical laboratory in rural Iowa with no building, equipment, customers or employees requires a true entrepreneurial spirit. Furthermore, the laboratory business is very competitive, requiring large capital investments for initial startup and continual investments in lab technology, equipment, and employee education.</p> <p>Diane’s team has grown from two full-time employees and an intern at the grand opening in July 2009 to a phenomenal team of 26 “highly educated Iowa farm kids who do whatever it takes.” They have built a well-respected business based on Exemplary Customer Service and Scientific Excellence in wet chemistry and microbiological analysis, serving clients in food, feed, fuel and environmental industries. This has and will continue to be achieved by investments in the latest technology and advancements in the laboratory industry. However, investments in technology are only one piece of the equation. Those investments, paired with the uniqueness of Diane’s background in business and science, helped create the core of Foundation Analytical Laboratory. This is apparent in all facets of the business. Employees hold themselves to a high standard while understanding and anticipating client needs, which helps to develop a strong partnership between Foundation Analytical and its clients.</p> <p>Foundation Analytical began with a vision and three goals: to be the provider of choice, the employer of choice and the investment of choice. Under Diane’s leadership, all three have successfully been accomplished and continue to break barriers.</p>

**9:40 to 10:10 a.m. Educator Reaction Panel – Iowa’s Talent Pipeline**

	<p>Cindy Dietz is Director, State Government Relations for Raytheon Technologies (RTX). She develops relationships with state and local officials on behalf of RTX businesses in an effort to create policy and promote practices that support a competitive business environment.</p> <p>During 20+ years at Collins Aerospace, Cindy led functions including global marketing communications, government relations, media/public relations and community relations. Accomplishments include leading communications for the company’s largest acquisition and a CEO transition, establishing global giving programs and spearheading development of a strategic plan for STEM education outreach.</p> <p>In 2018, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds appointed Cindy as Interim Executive Director of the Governor’s STEM Advisory Council. Cindy continues to champion STEM education as an opportunity equalizer for students and economic growth driver for businesses and states.</p> <p>Cindy holds a Journalism/Mass Communications degree from Iowa State University. She volunteers with numerous state and local non-profit organizations and enjoys outdoor activities with husband KC.</p>
	<p>Dr. Stacey Cole is superintendent of the Storm Lake Community School District, a diverse community in northwest Iowa. There, she serves more than 2,500 students and their families, specializing in overcoming barriers that affect marginalized populations. She has an interest in civic innovation toward finding solutions to issues of inequality. She believes the best decisions are made by keeping people as the focal point of all solutions. Dr. Cole has served as a general elementary teacher, a special education teacher, a school improvement facilitator with the AEA, a building level administrator, curriculum director, and superintendent. Most of her experiences have been in rural districts, serving a majority of students who overcome barriers associated</p>

	<p>with poverty. Most recently, Dr. Cole earned a doctoral degree in Curriculum, Teaching and Teacher Education from the University of Florida, following degrees from Iowa State, Morningside, and Buena Vista University.</p>
	<p>Dr. Marjorie McGuire-Welch has been the president at Southwestern Community College in Creston since June 2021. McGuire-Welch, who has worked in higher education more than 25 years, started her professional career instructing science at the high school level. She was originally hired at Southwestern in 1995 as a faculty member and moved into academic administration in 2004. After leaving Southwestern in 2006, McGuire-Welch had stops at three Iowa post-secondary institutions—William Penn University, Buena Vista University, and Iowa Western Community College—before returning to Southwestern as president.</p> <p>McGuire-Welch holds a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy studies from Iowa State University; a Master of Science degree in science education from the University of Iowa; and a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology and chemistry from William Penn College.</p> <p>As a first-generation college student, McGuire-Welch understands the importance of advocating for the students of Iowa and the valuable role of STEM education.</p>
	<p>Nancy Mwiroti has dedicated her life to advocating for underrepresented individuals, including refugees, young women, and people of color. She believes success comes from opportunity. She works hard each day to involve local and national community members and organizations to empower hundreds of students to build skills for the future. These skills start with afterschool STEM education and develop into a personal relationship with each student, allowing them to garner influence and gain stability in their families and communities.</p> <p>Nancy courageously started something from nothing because she saw a need and an opportunity. She was helping refugee mothers in the community obtain jobs and realized that their children needed support too. She understood that these students would perhaps be the first in their families to complete high school or attend college and wanted to create a pathway for their success. In 2014, her non-profit Pursuit of Innovation (Pi515) was born. Today, seven years later, Nancy and Pi515 has seen over 100 students graduate high school and seek post-secondary education. She has provided these youth with confidence and skills for the future. One thing that has remained constant from the beginning is Nancy's ability to create lasting personal relationships with Pi515 students and their families. This summer, she led a Digital Inclusion StateWide campaign that helped provide Free one-year wifi hotspots and basic digital literacy skills to over 300 Iowans.</p> <p>In 2020 Nancy was given the Nation of Neighbors award by Royal Neighbors of America. Following this, she was recognized by Entrepreneur and Philanthropist John Pappajohn and received significant funding for the future of Pi515 and Building the Tech Pipeline. Currently, Nancy is working on expanding Pi 515 and launching Building the Tech pipeline platform to increase diversity in STEM careers, build a tech pipeline, and close the digital divide. She tirelessly pursues programming that will set her program apart from other STEM programs.</p> <p>Nancy has been recognized as an innovator and for her work to increase opportunities for women, girls, and minorities in the tech industry. She was a participant of the White House Conference on Inclusive STEM Education for Youth of Color, an awardee of the Iowa Educators award by the National Center for Women &amp; Information Technology (NCWIT), and featured by the Technology Association of Iowa as a Catalyst, technology leaders who inspire change, forge new paths, and ignite technology innovation in Iowa. She is also a Foundergym graduate.</p>
	<p>Dr. Mark Wiederspan is the Executive Director for Iowa College Aid. He leads Iowa College Aid's efforts to advocate for and support Iowans as they explore, finance, and complete educational opportunities beyond high school. He was previously a faculty member at Arizona State University. His area of expertise includes higher education policy, with a focus on the optimal design of financial aid programs, economics of education, educational pathways to college, and examination of personal and institutional barriers to college persistence and completion. His research has been published in the Journal of Higher Education, National Tax Journal, and Economics of Education Review. Mark earned a B.A. in Political Science from Nebraska Wesleyan University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Michigan's Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education.</p>

**10:10 to 10:20 a.m. Break – Transition to Break-Outs**

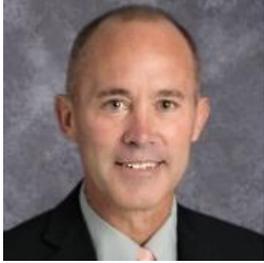
**10:20 to 11:05 a.m. Breakout Session I: *Work-Based Learning***

**1. Working to Learn – High School Apprenticeships and Internships**

	<p>Linda Fandel has served as Governor’s liaison for Future Ready Iowa at the Iowa Department of Education since December 2020. Previously, she was special assistant for education in the Iowa Office of the Governor. Prior to her work in state government, she covered education at The Des Moines Register in the roles of reporter, deputy editorial-page editor and editorial-page editor, and won national awards for a multiyear project examining how Iowa and the nation could create world-class schools.</p> <p>Fandel earned a bachelor’s degree in political science with honors at Scripps College/Claremont McKenna College and studied for a master’s degree in Russian studies at Georgetown University.</p>
	<p>Lowell Ernst has been the Director of K-12 Instruction for the Pella Community School District since 1998. Prior to his current role, Lowell served in positions as an Associate High School Principal, 7-12 science teacher, and athletic coach in western Iowa during the School-to-Work era. Lowell has been involved in the creation of a continuum of career development in Marion County that spans from early exposure in elementary through high school registered apprenticeships. The system now operates as WorkSMART Connector and involves six school districts and over 10 business partners. Lowell’s family includes his wife who works in the accounting field and two adult daughters who are public school teachers in Iowa.</p>
	<p>Lozier Corporation is an industry leader in providing store fixtures to major retailers across the U.S. and around the world. Headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska, Lozier began manufacturing fixtures in 1956, and originated the basics of today’s shelving systems. Today, Lozier has over 4 million square feet of manufacturing and distribution space across facilities located in five states.</p> <p>After graduating from college, I spent my first 10 years working in Student Services for 3 Universities (Wichita State, Texas Tech, and Creighton University). For the past 25 years, I have worked in manufacturing for Lozier with various duties and responsibilities: Production Supervisor, Production Manager, Labor Relations Manager, Plant Manager, and currently Talent Sourcing &amp; Development Manager.</p>
	<p>Lexi Shafer is in her 11th year of teaching with Johnston Community Schools. She serves as one of the two School-to-Work Internship Program Coordinators for Johnston High School students for half of her school day. In her 11 years at Johnston, she has taught business and computer classes at the middle and high school levels, and earned her MBA and MOC endorsement. Lexi strives to continually make connections with local businesses and find the perfect placement for each students’ work-based learning experience. She has worked with businesses from many different industries including medical, financial, education, technology, business, science, fashion, law and the trades. Even more, Lexi loves mentoring and guiding students to help them grow personally, academically and professionally so that they feel confident taking the next step into their future whether that be college or career.</p>

**2. School-Business Partnerships Models and Resources: STEM Externships and STEM BEST**

	<p>Tanya Hunt is the Project Coordinator for the Governor’s STEM Advisory Council. As a Project Coordinator she facilitates communication and promotion of our STEM Best programs throughout the state. Tanya has over 10 years of experience in working with the educational sector. Her specialty and background have been in facilitating and working within partnerships throughout the private and public sectors particularly in project development with school districts. Tanya obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in Occupational Therapy with a focus in Child Development and Family Services.</p>
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	<p>Jeff Frost has been innovating and leading instruction in the classroom, school, and district levels for 32 years in Iowa. Having worked in large and small school districts, he keenly understands the advantages and challenges of implementing a wide range of initiatives across a continuum of educational organizations.</p> <p>Currently, Frost is the Executive Director of Professional Technical Education for the Waterloo Schools. He oversees Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming at 2 comprehensive high schools, one alternative high school, and Waterloo’s cutting-edge Waterloo Career Center. He also oversees all aspects of CTE with Waterloo’s four middle schools, including alignment with both high school and Waterloo Career Center programs. Frost works closely with multiple community colleges, the business community, and all stakeholders, to bring CTE alive and create “real life” experiences, including Work-based Learning, for all students within the Waterloo Schools.</p>
	<p>Ann Gritzner is a Science Teacher and Instructional Coach at Central Community School in Elkader where she runs the Clayton County BEST Program. Central is a two time STEM BEST awardee in both 2021 and 2018. Ann was also named the Northeast Region STEM Teacher of the Year for 2019.</p>
	<p>Amber Pargmann is the Distinctive Product Quality Manager for Hay &amp; Forage at John Deere and serves as the Ottumwa Works site coordinator for John Deere Inspire, a STEM outreach initiative. She attended Texas A&amp;M University where she received a BS and MS in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering. She started working for John Deere upon completion of her master’s degree and has held various positions within engineering and program management. Amber is a member of the John Deere Inspire Core Team and the South Central Iowa STEM Advisory Board. In addition, Amber sits on the Board of Directors for First Resources Corporation and the Executive Advisory Board for Ottumwa Career Campus, a high school work-based learning program. She also volunteers with Make-A-Wish and coaches 5th &amp; 6th grade volleyball.</p>
	<p>Neil Seeley is the Calculus II (BC) and AP Statistics teacher at Waukee High School and longtime adjunct math instructor at Drake University. His favorite side hustle, however, is mentoring teachers in the STEM externship program! This past summer was his 11th summer absorbing highlights of the best PD program around. Neil had his own externship experiences over two summers with the TWIST (Teachers Within Science and Technology) program at 3M in Woodbury, MN. This ultimately led him to Iowa State for graduate work in their STEM (CESMEE) office. Neil is married to the best teacher in the state, Erica, and they have four children, three in Urbandale Schools and one at Des Moines Christian School.</p>

### 3. Work-Based Learning Experiences for Students with Disabilities

	<p>Mary Jackson is the Transition Resource Manager for Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS). Mary has been working for IVRS for over 16 years and began as a Rehabilitation Counselor in Waterloo. She obtained her Master’s degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Iowa in 2005.</p>
	<p>Advocating for Myself (TEAM) program at Easterseals. Anna has worked with individuals with disabilities for the past 10 years at Easterseals in various capacities doing direct care, case management and now working with students as they prepare to transition from high school into adulthood. Anna Engler works as the Team Leader of the Transitioning to Employment and</p>

	<p>Laura Gray has been a Rehabilitation Counselor with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services for 10 years. Much of that time has been working with transition age youth to achieve their employment goals. For the past 3 years, Laura has worked in partnership with Des Moines Public Schools and the Easter Seals TEAM program.</p>
	<p>Jennifer Hennessey is a Transition Case Manager and works for Des Moines Public Schools. She provides support and oversight to students in all high schools who receive Special Education services and are engaged in Work Based Learning. Jennifer has spent the last 5 years working in close collaboration with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation and Easter Seals to expand the delivery of PreEts in our high schools as well as Work Based Learning opportunities.</p>
	<p>Amy Wonderlin is an Employment Specialist with the Transitioning to Employment and Advocating for Myself (TEAM) program. Amy is placed within Des Moines Public Schools' alternative programs: All Point's Academy, Options Academy, and Focus High School. For the past 5 years, Amy has worked with individuals with disabilities in positions ranging from direct care to Supported Employment Service Coordinator, and now to Employment Specialist. Amy supports students in job exploration, work-based learning, counseling on opportunities, workplace readiness training, and self-advocacy.</p>

#### 4. Employers Driving Work-Based Learning

	<p>Carrie Rankin is the associate director for the Governor's STEM Advisory Council. Carrie's primary responsibility is operational management of the STEM Council. She also develops corporate, private sector and grant partnerships on behalf of the STEM Council to further the investment in Iowa STEM Council initiatives. Carrie brings more than 17 years of development experience to this position, previously serving as executive director with the Waterloo Schools Foundation, and as development director with both the Allen Hospital Foundation and University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Foundation. A 1989 UNI graduate, Carrie earned her bachelor of arts in chemistry and marketing.</p>
	<p>Jim came to KJAN in 1988 as News &amp; Sports Director. Today, you can hear Jim each weekday morning from 6:00 am – 11:00 am. He also hosts a daily show, "Heartbeat Today." Jim is very active in community groups and organizations, and is a past president of the Iowa Broadcasters Association Board of Directors. Jim was the 2014 Iowa Broadcasters Association "Broadcaster of the Year." He was also presented the 2008 Iowa High School Athletic Association News Media Award for his contributions to local high school sports. He was also presented the Iowa Football Coaches Association Distinguished Service Award in 2016. Jim is a big fan of the Iowa Hawkeyes, Chicago Cubs, Chicago Bears, and the Chicago Blackhawks. Jim and his wife, Deb, live in Atlantic, but can usually be found at Kinnick Stadium or on the golf course when they have time!</p>
	<p>I joined Vermeer in 1997 and have worked in a variety of roles in Human Resources. I'm currently on the Talent Acquisition team focusing on connecting students to the many manufacturing opportunities available at Vermeer Corporation and creating awareness of these opportunities to parents and K-12 educators.</p> <p>Vermeer is able to provide several work-based learning opportunities, and I get to work with these students. The future is bright in Iowa!</p> <p>Personally, I enjoy reading all kinds of books, journaling, riding my bike on the awesome IA bike trails, hanging out with my family, and the ISU Cyclones.</p>
	<p>As Vice President of Human Resources for The Weitz Company, Krista oversees internal communication, recruitment, selection, employee relations, compliance, and benefits. She began her career with Weitz in 2015, starting as a human resources business partner for the Commercial business segment.</p> <p>Krista, a 2008 graduate of Iowa State University, has since spent the majority of her career working in human resources in the construction industry. She is an active member of the Construction Personnel Executives Group (CPEG), the Iowa Business Council, and the Society for Human Resource Management.</p>



Lucy Gee is a Sr Strategy Consultant in Retirement at Principal Financial Group. In this role she works with retirement leadership to build strategies that execute on the mission to help people save enough, protect enough, and have enough for retirement. Lucy has been at Principal for 3 and a half years; she started her career in the Principal Leadership Development Rotational Program in 2018. During her time at Principal Lucy has volunteered with iJag at both East and Valley High School as a volunteer captain and school year lead. Lucy was born and raised in West Des Moines, Iowa and she currently lives in Des Moines. Outside of work, Lucy enjoys live music, reality tv, reading, and spending time with her friends and family.

**11:05 to 11:15 a.m. Break**

**11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Breakout Session II: Computer Science Education**

1. Computer Science is Elementary – A Pilot Program of Twelve Elementary Schools



Mary Trent is the Northwest Regional STEM Manager for the Governor's STEM Advisory Council and located at Iowa Lakes Community College. After graduating from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a minor in Educational Computing, Mary spent 22 years at Kuemper Catholic School in Carroll as a first grade teacher and technology integration specialist. During that time, she also taught many courses through Heartland AEA and AEA PD Online. Mary later graduated from Morningside College with Master's Degree in Professional Education.

2. Future Tech Workforce Cultivators



Samantha Dahlby is a recovering software engineer with passions for public transportation, kids, and technology. She currently works at the New Bohemian Innovation Collaborative (NewBoCo), a nonprofit in Cedar Rapids, as the Director of K–12 Education. Samantha promotes and supports K–12 computer science education in Iowa, oversees NewBoCo's K–12 programs for students and educators, and tries to find as much time as possible to play with technology and kids. Her background in computer engineering and various experiences in educational programs both benefit her current role. Samantha also has two young daughters, and has learned to enjoy watching them tear apart \*most\* things in the name of curiosity.

3. Statewide Computer Science Working Group Report to the Legislature: Building on Iowa's Vision for Computer Science Education (House File 2629)



Kathy Kay is senior vice president and chief information officer of Principal Financial Group®. She is responsible for overseeing the company's global technology and digital strategies, its IT and digital operations, and innovation that supports current and future business needs. Kay joined Principal in May 2020. She brings nearly 25 years of cross-industry experience in IT leadership. She most recently led the information technology business at Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), including the company's mission-critical systems and the development of the company's technology strategy, infrastructure, and architecture. She also held leadership positions with General Motors, Comerica, and SunTrust. Kay earned a master's degree in engineering science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a bachelor's degree in computer science from Wayne State University.

	<p>Joe Murphy is the Executive Director of the Iowa Business Council. In this role, he leads an organization comprised of CEOs and top executives from the 22 largest employers in Iowa. The Iowa Business Council serves as a catalyst to elevate Iowa’s long-term economic vitality through global thought leadership, research, and advocacy.</p>
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#### 4. Iowa’s Tech Workforce: What Employers Need from K-12 Schools

	<p>Russ Adams has been serving as the superintendent of the MOC-Floyd Valley Community School District since 2013. Prior to that, he served the district as the high school principal. Russ has 28 years of experience in administration and spent seven years as a business teacher and coach. He and his wife also spent a year as family-teachers at Boys Town, NE. During his career, he has been recognized as a Milken National Educator (2003), Iowa High School Principal of the Year (2009), and Iowa Superintendent of the Year (2021). He is extremely excited about the work being done by the MOC-Floyd Valley Team in the areas of computer science and authentic, career-based learning and believes whole-heartedly in the power of collaborating and learning with community partners.</p>
	<p>Joel is a 28-year educator. For the first 15 years, his primary responsibility was upper-level math. He spent more than 10 years as a query writer for the school’s information system managing attendance, curriculum, and standards and then transitioned into supporting the technology department. For the past 10 years, he has spearheaded the computer science initiative for the district, which has included: two years of training for elementary teacher to implement CS lessons and to integrate CS into their existing curriculum; training middle school math teachers to integrate CS in the math classroom; and developing a four-year course offering for high school students. In his free time, he coaches high school football, serves as the head boys track &amp; field coach, and facilitates Compute Science Principles training for <a href="https://code.org">code.org</a>. His greatest joy is being married to Melissa and parenting six children with her on their acreage.</p>
	<p>Wendy S. Batchelder serves as the Chief Data Officer of VMware and is responsible for the company’s business insights, analytics solutions, business process excellence, robotic process automation and delivering data management capabilities across the company. Wendy directs planning and implementation of enterprise information systems to foster innovation that creates competitive advantage, enhances the customer experience, improves service quality, supports business development, improves cost effectiveness, and leads to greater productivity and efficiency.</p>
	<p>Wendy has spent over 15 years in leadership roles at a variety of global companies spanning various industries. Prior to her role at VMware, Wendy held various leadership roles at Wells Fargo, including Head of Enterprise Master &amp; Reference Data and Head of the Corporate Risk Data Office. Wendy spent 10 years in progressive IT Audit roles at Aviva North America, KPMG and Ernst &amp; Young LLP.</p> <p>Wendy holds an Executive Master of Business Administration from the University of Iowa, a Master of Accountancy from Drake University and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Miami University. Wendy is also a Certified Information Systems Auditor.</p> <p>She currently serves as an appointed member of the Iowa Governor’s STEM Advisory Council, including co-chairing the Career Exploration Committee. Additionally, Wendy is a member of Iowa’s Computer Science Working Group for Education, established to design K-12 computer science education for the State of Iowa. She was recently named a 2020 SheLeadsTech Ambassador, a Women Who Code Advisor for Data Science and a Girls Who Code facilitator.</p>



Michelle Bates, Founder and CEO, SkyPrairie Inc., is a transformational business and technology executive with more than twenty-five years of experience across multiple industries and market segments. In 2020 she was named CIO of the Year by the Technology Association of Iowa and now serves as an Executive in Residence for the TAI Leadership Institute.

An accountant by trade, who took a left turn into technology, she is passionate about leveraging technology to drive business outcomes and innovation to achieve strategic and operational results. Today, Michelle provides Executive and Start-up Consulting, Advisory Services, Merger and Acquisition support and Business Development to drive organizational growth and transformation.

Michelle is the former Chief Innovation Officer for Involta, an award winning Cloud and Managed Service provider where she was responsible for Involta’s Consulting practice, Enterprise Architecture, Core Business Systems and Cloud Services across the US. Prior to joining Involta she was the Founder and CEO of the IT cloud consulting firm, BluPrairie Technologies. She rapidly grew the firm and exceeded revenue and growth targets resulting in a successful exit and acquisition by Involta in 2018. She also held the position of Director of IT Architecture Services at Collins Aerospace, where she was responsible for driving the Global Cloud Strategy. Throughout her career, Michelle has had extensive experience working with cloud service providers, such as Amazon Web Services, Google and Microsoft.

Michelle has a strong commitment to her community and is engaged in philanthropic work and supports the LGBTQ+ Clinic at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, One Iowa, Shelter House and the Englert Theatre. In addition she coaches and mentors students at the University of Iowa’s John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center and regularly mentors women in technology and business.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.



David is the senior vice president, application development, leading the ITS/SHAZAM teams in their mission to enhance the network’s electronic transaction switching services; ATM and POS terminal driving services; secure reporting and file preparation/distribution; and secure web applications and core banking systems used by SHAZAM financial institutions. His focus is to deliver innovative solutions that drive value for our member financial institutions and merchants.

Before joining SHAZAM in 2007, David spent seven years leading the application development efforts for Yellow Book USA and the McLeodUSA publishing companies. For six years, he served as owner and vice president of Creative Software Services, an independent network services and custom software development firm based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

David has extensive experience in software development, project management, implementing and managing formal development lifecycle processes, transitioning teams to new development paradigms and building highly productive team environments.



Jessa Erickson is a successful entrepreneur, wife, and mother, though not necessarily in that order. Following the birth of her first child she started ThinkSpace IT in October 2013. Jessa has been working diligently with her customers and local communities to change the way technology is thought of and adopted in the workplace. An internationally award-winning company, ThinkSpace IT is most notably a value-added managed services provider headquartered in Harlan, Iowa. When someone asks her husband and COO, Jason Erickson, what ThinkSpace IT does he jokingly replies, “If it goes beep, we most likely have a hand in it.” With her leadership ThinkSpace IT is constantly evolving and growing to provide support and guidance in the ever-changing IT field.



Dan Greteman is Vice President and Chief Information Officer for Ruan Transportation Management Systems and has worked in the technology field for more than 34 years.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering from Iowa State University, Dan began his career in the Communications and High-Tech division at Accenture. After Accenture, Dan joined Nationwide and ultimately served as Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer. Additionally, Dan served as the chairman of the Nationwide Iowa PAC.

	<p>Dan has worked with DMACC, Iowa State University and the Technology Association of Iowa to develop programs specifically focused on developing more technologists. Dan served as the DMACC IT Industry Board Chairman since 2014. In 2017, Dan created a first-in-the-nation accredited technology apprenticeship program working with a Central Campus. Dan and Ruan have partnered with Turkey Valley and Waukee Apex creating work-based learning opportunity for high school students. Dan is a member of the Governor’s Iowa STEM Council.</p>
	<p>Tyler Wyngarden is Vice President of the Technology Association of Iowa (TAI). Which represents over 360 technology member companies across the state. In this role, Tyler is responsible for all revenue generation, leading strategy for new initiatives and implement existing programming to support the Information Technology industry in Iowa.</p> <p>Before his role as Vice President, Tyler led TAI's workforce and education initiatives developing its first Technology Apprenticeship Program and scaling technology education programming to over 250 schools. He then led the membership and development department and engaged with new and existing members to advance the four pillars of TAI: connecting leaders, developing talent, driving public policy, and fostering diversity and inclusion.</p> <p>Prior to joining TAI, Tyler worked for Iowa Economic Development Authority. He has extensive experience in program development, public policy, and community building. Tyler believes anyone can have a career in technology and that all companies are technology companies.</p>

**12:00 to 1:15 p.m. Lunch + Keynote**

	<p>Emily Calandrelli is the host and co-executive producer of the hit Netflix series Emily’s Wonder Lab. Each episode features Emily and a group of kid-scientists as they learn about STEAM through experiments and fun activities. Emily is also an Executive Producer and Emmy nominated host of FOX’s Xploration Outer Space and was a correspondent on Netflix’s, Bill Nye Saves The World.</p> <p>Emily, who was named to Adweek’s “11 Celebrities and Influencers Raising the Bar for Creativity in 2017”, is also an accomplished writer and speaker on the topics of space exploration, scientific literacy, and equality. Her chapter book series, The Ada Lace Adventures, centers around an eight-year-old girl with a knack for science, math, and solving mysteries with technology, the second book in the series, Ada Lace: Sees Red, was included in the National Science Teachers Association’s list of best STEM books for 2018. The third book, Ada Lace: Take Me To Your Leader, was part of the initiative from NASA and CASIS, Story Time from Space where the book was launched into space and read by an astronaut aboard the ISS to an audience of kids. The fifth and most recent book in the series, Ada Lace: and the Suspicious Artist which was released in February 2019. All 5 books in the series are available at Barnes and Noble as well as Amazon.</p> <p>Emily frequently gives talks about the importance of science literacy, the benefits of space exploration, and the challenges for women in STEM careers for clients like Google, Pixar, MIT, Texas Instruments as well as dozens of K-12 schools across the nation. Her first two TEDx talks, “I Don’t Do Math” and “Space Exploration Is The Worst,” have garnered over one million views on YouTube.</p> <p>Prior to her work in science communication, Emily attended West Virginia University, where she received a Bachelors of Science degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Aerospace Engineering, and MIT where she received two Masters of Science degrees, one in Aeronautics and Astronautics and the other in Technology and Policy. Through her work, she wants to make science relatable, easy to understand and more exciting today than ever before in history.</p>
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**1:15 to 1:50 p.m. Economic, Workforce, and Education Actions to *Transform Education for the Workforce***



Debi Durham is a longtime economic and community development professional who serves as executive director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) and the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA). Durham was named to the position by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds in January 2019.

Durham was first appointed to lead IEDA in 2011 and has turned the agency into a successful public-private partnership, landed billion-dollar economic development projects for Iowa and worked tirelessly to expand trade and investment opportunities for the state. She was appointed to lead IFA in 2019, when Governor Reynolds recognized an opportunity to further bolster Iowa's communities and economy by bringing together IFA and IEDA. Durham prides herself on building coalitions, supporting new ventures and strengthening the state's industries and communities.

Prior to joining IEDA/IFA, Durham served as president of the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce.

Her several accolades include being recognized as one of the "Most Influential Business Leaders" in the 2020 and 2019 Des Moines Business Record Book of Lists and receiving the Technology Association of Iowa's "Legislative Advocacy Leader" award in 2017. Durham also was recognized by the Business Record as a "Woman of Influence" in 2016, and she received the Christian Petersen Design Award from Iowa State University's College of Design in 2015.

Durham holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Marketing and Management from Missouri Southern State University.



Director Townsend has general supervision over the various services IWD provides to Iowans. The Director prepares, administers, and controls the budget of the agency and its divisions along with Rod Roberts, Commissioner of the Division of Labor and Joseph S. Cortese, II, Commissioner of the Division of Workers' Compensation.

Director Townsend has been in her current position since 2015 when she was first appointed by Governor Branstad and unanimously confirmed by the Iowa Senate on March 24, 2015. Director Townsend was reappointed by Governor Reynolds in January 2019 and again confirmed by the Iowa Senate. Director Townsend previously served as the Director of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. Director Townsend served in the Air Force Reserve and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 21 years of active and reserve duty.



Dr. Steve Schulz officially began his duties as the President of North Iowa Area Community College on December 1, 2013. Prior to coming to NIACC, Dr. Schulz served as the Provost at DMACC, Carroll campus. Dr. Schulz has had a 30 year career in education serving as a 7-12 teacher and coach, middle school and high school principal and as Superintendent of the Carroll Community School District prior to working at the community college level.

Dr. Schulz received his Bachelor's degree in History from Wartburg College in Waverly, his Master's in Educational Administration from the University of Northern Iowa, his Education Specialist Degree from Drake University in Des Moines, and his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Iowa State University.

He and his wife, Cathie, have two daughters, Lindsey and Caitlyn.



Dr. Gausman is the superintendent of the Sioux City Schools in Iowa. Dr. Gausman was named a finalist for the National Superintendent of the Year from the National Association of School Superintendents in 2018 and the 2014 Iowa Superintendent of the Year. The District celebrates gains in achievement and the graduation rate; and the District has been labeled one of 100 original Future Ready Districts in the nation and a Next Generation High School District by the United States Department of Education and the White House.

Paul holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of St. Thomas in MN, an Education Specialist from the University of Sioux Falls, a Master of Science in Educational Administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is affiliated with many professional organizations in school administration, education, leadership, and the arts.



Mark Putnam is in his 12th year as president of Central College in Pella, Iowa, founded in 1853. He is active in advancing educational opportunity and promoting economic and community development. He chairs the board of directors of the Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. He was appointed by the Governor to the Iowa College Student Aid Commission and to the executive committees of the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council and the Future Ready Iowa Alliance. He is also president of the board of directors for the Pella Area Community and Economic Alliance.

Putnam previously served as senior vice president for executive affairs, chief of staff and chief planning officer at Northeastern University where he filled a succession of leadership roles. He also held key senior administrative positions at Connecticut College, Alliance Theological Seminary, Pace University and Nyack College (all in New York) where he began his career as an admission counselor. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from Nyack College and Master of Arts, Master of Education and Doctor of Education degrees at Teachers College, Columbia University.

**1:50 to 2:00 p.m.      Closing Remarks – The Honorable Kim Reynolds, Governor of Iowa**