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Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council Announces Diane Young as New Co-Chair
Young will serve alongside Governor Kim Reynolds

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa – The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council announced that Foundation Analytical Laboratory Owner and Director of Technical Services, Diane Young, will serve as the next Council co-chair. Appointed by Governor Kim Reynolds, Young succeeds Accumold President and CEO, Roger Hargens, who served as STEM Council co-chair for three years.

In 2008, Young's entrepreneurial vision motivated her to 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, sparked her entrepreneurial passion.

Young has been a long-time proponent of STEM education. This inspiration led to the creation of her science-based business, giving STEM-educated individuals a reason to return to the Cherokee area. By providing quality, high-paying career opportunities in science and technology, she could attract young talent while enhancing her hometown economy. Her team began with two full-time employees and an intern and has now grown to 26 "highly-educated Iowa farm kids who do whatever it takes."

"Diane Young has a passion for engaging with Iowa students and not only promoting the career opportunities that exist in Iowa—but creating additional opportunities herself," said Governor Reynolds. "The STEM Council continually strives to give every single student across the state access to STEM education and Diane's contributions will be invaluable as we prepare the future workforce and advance STEM in Iowa."

Young was also the 2016 recipient of the Technology Association of Iowa's Women of Innovation Award for Entrepreneurial Innovation and Leadership.

"I am grateful to Governor Reynolds for choosing me to co-chair the STEM Council," said Young. "I am honored to be following in the footsteps of the rock stars that have championed this initiative and to work with the extremely talented members of the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council."

The STEM Council recently unveiled its new logo, transitioning to "Tomorrow STEMS from Iowa" to highlight the vital role that Iowans play in engineering a great future for the state, as well as serving as guide for STEM education and excellence throughout the country.

For more information about the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council and available programs, visit www.iowastem.org.

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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>.