

# South Central STEM Hub Newsletter

**GREATNESS  
STEMS  
FROM IOWANS**

**Drake**  
UNIVERSITY

**SOUTH CENTRAL IOWA REGION GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## STEM Happens

# Clarke County Fair Brings the Heat with STEM Night

Clarke County STEM lovers braved the heat and humidity for a fun learning experience at the fair. Thursday, July 16, Clarke Community School's teacher Brandi Boyd and ISU extension coordinator Jennifer Pollard planned the event. The festival began last year, with seed money and help from the SC STEM Hub. This year, the festival was fully independent.

"We're really excited to make this an annual event," said Boyd. "We had businesses calling us, asking to be part of the next one. That's when we realized the impact we could have."

Anna Sereg and Noah Heckman served as student ambassadors for the event. "I'm a STEM enthusiast," said Heckman. "I love to spread my interest in STEM. I think they're important skills." Sereg added, "I hope this event helps the community grow and have a better understanding of local STEM opportunities."

AgriVision intern Marshall Lynch knows about STEM opportunities. That booth showed how technology relates to planting. "I recently read an article that there were 30,000 ag graduates and 50,000 jobs available," he said. "The demand is there."



Clarke Ag Ed teacher Brandi Boyd (left) and ISU extension coordinator Jennifer Pollard (right) greet Clarke Community School's superintendent, Steve Seid. "I came out to support the community. The district is very supportive of the STEM initiative."

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## Scale-Up Update from Dr. Sarah Derry

If you've received a 2015-16 Scale-Up award, you should...



\* Have been to or are scheduled for **training**.

\* Understand the three-part **evaluation** process.

\* Feel comfortable with learning and incorporating the **materials** into your educational environment.

An Iowa native graduate of Iowa State and the University of Iowa, Dr. Sarah Derry manages the SC STEM Hub.

If you're a big planner, please keep these dates in mind...

**October 2015** – providers will be asked to apply for Scale-Up consideration

**January 2016** – the next round of educator Scale-Up applications will open.

If you need help or have questions please contact Dr. Sarah Derry (at right) at [scstemhub@drake.edu](mailto:scstemhub@drake.edu).

Terri Higgins, SWCC marketing director, summed up the reason why so many turned out for the event. "We're here is because #1 we hope everyone learns something and #2 we hope everyone has fun at the same time." Both are essential ingredients for creating a lifelong STEM curiosity.



See snapshots of the evening in the photos above. Event coordinator Jennifer Pollard utilized student and community volunteers of all ages to add variety and depth to this year's festival. "I really want kids to know that STEM is all around them in almost everything they do," she said. "This event really brings that to life."

## I AM STEM!

*Meet Clarke Community  
Schools'*

*Noah Heckman*



Ever wonder how clubs get started? People like Noah Heckman (above) have a vision. He started both the 4-H and FTC clubs in Clarke County. Aging out of FLL, he's served as a mentor for the past two years, and a current leader for his FTC team.

He's a self-proclaimed STEM enthusiast, and his curiosity is contagious. "If you don't think you might not," Heckman says. "Don't force yourself into one role. It's not about status and money, but about enjoying how you spend your time."

Heckman is very active in 4-H, showing rabbits and hogs. This year, he was chosen to be on the elite 2016 State 4-H Council. Representing a handful of counties, he visits fairs and serves on the marketing and comp committee. In August, he'll have the opportunity to work as an Iowa State Fair staff member, doing data entry exhibits.

Home-schooled until 8th grade, Heckman easily transitioned into Clarke Community School District. He credits his mother for early academic success. "My mom always helped me go."

Currently, Heckman participates in the TAG program and takes accelerated math and engineering classes. In his free time, he plays guitar, makes his own money at Fareway and works





Project Lead the Way Educators attended intensive training at ISU and U of I in July for Launch, Gateway to Technology, Principles of Engineering, and Computer Science

## 3,000 Iowa Educators Prep for New School Year with STEM Professional Development

State-wide, nearly 3,000 Iowa educators are attending STEM trainings for the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council's Scale-Up Programs July-October.

That is over 70 trainings for nearly 3,000 educators who will deliver excellent STEM to over 100,000 youth! See our STEM Events below for dates and locations of upcoming professional development in South Central Iowa. We're just getting started!

his truck.

"I always try to be open-minded and willing to learn new things," says Heckman.

In the future, he hopes to attend IS for Electrical Engineering. Inspired by his grandfather's interest in circuits, he has this advice for working around electricity: "keep calm and stay focused."

That's just good advice for wherever life takes you.



## Iowa BEST/RLE Proposals due September 1

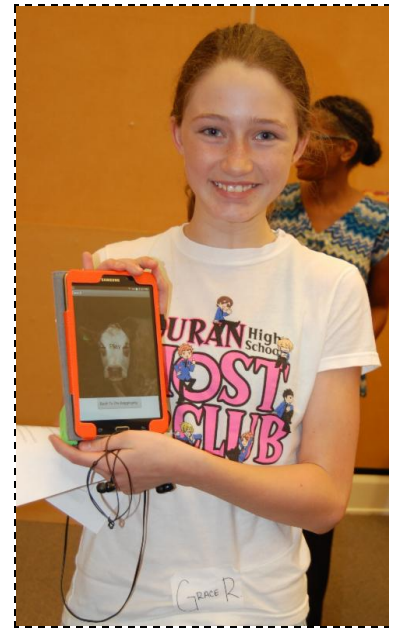
Both the Businesses Engaging Students and Teachers (BEST) and STEM Redesigned Learning Environment models share the goal of uniting the expertise of public and private sectors to strengthen the continuum from school to careers. Awarded applicants will receive \$25,000 to be matched with local cost share and will be designated as innovative partners of the Governor's STEM Advisory Council modeling excellence.

Learn more! Click here to access the [proposal and more](#). You can also view this [informational webinar](#).

**We'll LEND it to YOU!**



Early childhood educators discuss strategies and materials to inspire their Pint Size Scientists in STEM at the Science Center of Iowa.



The SC STEM Hub has a lending library that's available to regional educators. Items include:

- \* 30 Samsung Galaxy 7.0 Tablets (pictured above)
- \* Hands-on Kits
- \* EiE Notebooks
- \* Family Science Projects and Sto

For a full list of materials, click [HE](#)

STEM Out of the Classroom

## *School is always in session for* **Teacher Externs**

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**Find us at:**

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Drake University School of Educat  
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**Call us at:**

515-271-2403  
Dr. Sarah Derry, Manager



City of Des Moines Arborist, David Jahn, discusses the Emerald Ash Borer with teachers Taylor Hubbard and Olivia Palmer. Both teachers are part of the Governor's STEM Teacher Externship program. Jahn has worked with teacher externs for the past three years.

Taylor Hubbard and Olivia Palmer are hunting down one of Des Moines' worst menaces--the Emerald Ash Borer. In a partnership with the Governor's STEM Initiative and the City of Des Moines' Forestry Department, these two teachers are creating a map of all the city's ash trees.

"Our challenge is to inform the public of the amount of private ash trees on their property," said Palmer, who will begin her first year teaching 6th, 7th, and 8th grade science this fall, "and help be proactive about treating such trees to prevent expensive removal operations."

Hubbard, Ankeny science teacher, was surprised at just how many skills the job entailed. "There are a lot of opportunities for interaction with land owners," he said. "It's really important to let them know we're here to help." Many inquire as to why city employees are on their property.

"Teachers are a great fit with our program," said David Jahn, City of Des Moines Arborist and externship program mentor. "They're used to working long hours, know how to communicate in various situations and have a natural curiosity and willingness to learn."

The externship program lasts six weeks, employers often work around planned vacations, and all externs are paid. Want more info? Click [here](#) to learn about the [Teacher Externship Program](#).





"This is a great example of the biodiversity and invasive species that I can share with students," said Hubbard. "I'll have access to the data and can use it with my classes. It's a great local example, and their work will have real meaning."



"I feel like just having this experience will make me a better teacher," said Palmer. "I'll know the skills my students will need to make it in the real world."

## Get Connected to STEM Volunteers at VolunteerIowa.org!

Are you looking for community members to help advance your STEM programming? Statewide recruitment efforts through Million Women Mentors have identified 1,800 volunteers who would like to work with Iowa's youth to help drive interest in STEM.

Thousands of people will receive information at STEM Day at the Fair on August 23, 2015 and at upcoming state conferences. These individuals will be directed to find local volunteer opportunities on Volunteer Iowa's new statewide volunteer database, Get Connected, to search for volunteer opportunities in their area.

So, it's time to get your organization listed on Get Connected today, so that these ready and willing volunteers are directed to your program. The process takes only 15 minutes:

- Visit the Volunteer Iowa website and click on "Post a Volunteer Opportunity" button in the right column.
- Select your local Volunteer Center based on county, then click "sign up" to create an account.



Volunteers make everything better! Shirley Kessel (center) from Lamoni dedicates hours to district STEM endeavors.

- Follow the prompts to create a profile and post opportunities.
- If you have any questions, please contact Volunteer Iowa at [icvs@iowa.gov](mailto:icvs@iowa.gov).

## Events

### Add these dates to your calendar!

August 4 -- ST Math, Pella and Johnston  
August 5 -- ST Math, Johnston  
August 6-7 -- KidWind, TBA  
August 10-11 -- TEN80, Drake's Olmstead Center  
August 17 -- Pint-Size Science, SCI of Iowa  
August 20 -- ST Math, Pella  
August 23 -- STEM Day at the Iowa State Fair  
September 1 -- Iowa STEM BEST/RLE Proposals Due  
September 15 -- EiE, Drake University  
September 24 -- EiE, Drake University  
October 19 -- DMACC-Ankeny STEM Festival  
February 23 -- IHCC-Ottumwa STEM Festival  
April 14 -- Drake-Des Moines STEM Festival

Spread the word about STEM EVENTS in your community!

Visit the [South Central STEM Calendar](#) to get details on these events and see LOTS more!

[To submit your STEM event, click here!](#)

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