

# STEM Takes the Reins

At the age of nine, Jennifer developed a love for STEM through equestrian riding. Science was important in understanding the relationship between the horse and rider, especially when caring for her horse and keeping it healthy.

Jennifer found a path to continue her interest in animal science at Hawkeye Community College, taking courses in anatomy, biology and animal nutrition with plans to continue studies at Iowa State University. At Hawkeye, Jennifer learns hands-on at the college's 400-acre farm lab and works with a fistulated steer to understand and track animal digestion.

Jennifer enjoys STEM because she's passionate about animals, loves problem solving and no two days in her work are the same.

"You can never give up if a concept is difficult. I work especially hard and ask questions to help better understand my subjects. You're always learning something new, setting new goals and achieving new accomplishments in STEM education," Jennifer says.

From riding at the age of nine to pursuing a career in animal science, Jennifer has always followed her dreams and encourages the same of other STEM students.

"If you set your mind to it, you can achieve anything," Jennifer says.

## Jennifer Wessels

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