

Talking Points for STEM Scale-Up programming – Current and Past Award Scalers

Through legislative appropriation, the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council is able to offer exemplary STEM programs throughout the state. The STEM Scale-Up Program has demonstrated success in increasing student interest and achievement in STEM across all demographics.

It is the intent of the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council to "seed" or start programs (not sustain) in your school or district through the Iowa STEM Scale-Up Program. After a year or two of support, it is highly unlikely that a similar application from the same teacher, class or district will be awarded again by the STEM Council.

In order to sustain these programs in your classroom/school/district, you may want to consider the following tactics:

1 – Investigate to see whether or not your District employs a community outreach person, or inquire as to who is responsible for those functions in your District. Many times, they will be able to help you make connections with charitable foundations, community foundations, and local businesses that charitably support education in your community.

2 – Does your school/district have an educational foundation? To find if your District does, visit <http://www.schoolfoundations.org/iowa>, see if your school is listed, and connect with them.

3 – Connect with a local Iowa Community Foundation, which are tax-exempt, charitable organizations created by and for the people of our state's diverse communities. These Foundations are established to help Iowans make a positive, local impact by offering a variety of tools to help people achieve their charitable goals and do good work in their communities that last forever. To find your local Community Foundation, visit www.iowacommunityfoundations.org, select your county or open their interactive map tool. Many Community Foundations offer grant opportunities at least two times per year.

4 – The Iowa Council of Foundations is a diverse and growing network of grantmakers throughout the State of Iowa. For contact information for their members, visit <http://www.iowacounciloffoundations.org/membership-directory.aspx>

5 - Many businesses in your local communities support education through either charitable giving or corporate support. Find and connect with your local chamber of commerce at <http://member.iowachamber.net/list/>. Their Executive Director or Membership Coordinator should be able to discuss with you what businesses support education, and how to connect with them.

6 – Always be sure to share your excitement and results/evidence of the STEM Scale-Up Program you implemented with your Lead Teacher, Principal, School Board Members, and other Administrators in your District. If possible, invite them into your classroom to see you implementing the program, and discuss with them the potential of making it part of your School or District's budget.