Molly Faber  
NW Regional STEM Manager  
Send me an e-mail

Upcoming Events:

Monday,  
June 15, 2015  
NW STEM Advisory Board Meeting  
Sac City, Iowa

Wednesday,  
June 17, 2015  
STEM BEST Event  
FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny,

Journey into the Aerospace Industry with  
Norman Chaffee

Norm Chaffee has spent over 50 years in the aerospace industry at the NASA Johnson Space Center. He has worked on the Gemini and Apollo missions, various Shuttle missions, designed and developed spacecraft, manned operation systems and was chief engineer for the international space station construction.

After retiring, Chaffee has devoted much of his time encouraging the next generation of rocket scientists. Fortunately, during the week of May 11 -14, Norman Chaffee brought his experiences and expertise to NW Iowa as he visited 7 school districts (Sioux City CSD, Lawton-Bronson CSD, Le Mars CSD, Central Lyon CSD, George Little Rock CSD, Spencer CSD, and Sioux Central CSD) and spoke to about 1,200 middle school and high school students.

Students listened to Chaffee and even shared their passions and future goals about space exploration with him.

Chaffee stated that he likes to imagine that the next Neil Armstrong is in the audience as he speaks to the future generation of rocket scientists.
A special thank you to Norman Chaffee, the NW AEA, and the 7 school districts and students who welcomed Norm into their schools.

Your Community; Your Events

Learning happens inside and outside of the classroom. Learning can happen to anyone at any age.

If you know of any STEM events happening, please submit your STEM Event so learning can happen anywhere, anytime, for anyone.

Want to stay connected and informed about events and opportunities like NASA's Norman Chaffee visit?

Connect with NW STEM on social media to stay up to date on the latest events and opportunities throughout the NW region and all of Iowa!

STEM-Focused Classrooms: Sioux Center High School

The four recipients of last year's STEM-Focused Classroom grant are now delivering on their promise to re-imagine learning spaces for moving forward STEM and education as a whole. Partnering with the STEM Council and local communities, each room now has all of the ingredients in place---high-tech and leading-edge, physical spaces, well-
prepared teachers and links to the outside world of STEM professionals. Today, those classrooms operate at full-capacity, changing the face and substance of student learning.

From a compelling pool of 24 applicants, the four awarded schools (Davenport West High School, Hoover High School, Mt. Pleasant Middle School & Sioux Center High School) made the most of $50,000 cost-matched grants to create models of learning laboratories for Iowa.

Iowa School district leaders in Sioux Center, Iowa found opportunity in the STEM Council funding to add on to an existing project of redesigning its Learning Center. Sioux Center High School built on a technology lab that is used by both high school and middle school teachers. The lab features four, distinct pods that allow students to work together, using various technologies. Teachers say students have the opportunity to learn as a group and share with the entire class at the press of a button.

Watch the video of the Sioux Center High School STEM-Focused Classroom to see what we have for students in NW Iowa.

To find out how to get a tour or learn more about each STEM classroom, e-mail Info@IowaSTEM.gov or mefaber@iowalakes.edu.

**STEM BEST Event Scheduled to Promote Business/School Partnerships**

In December 2014, five exemplary models of education and business partnerships were awarded funding through the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council's STEM Businesses Engaging Students and Teachers (BEST) program. The Council has designated a portion of the state legislative funding to promote Iowa STEM BEST programs, with the goal of uniting the expertise of public and private sectors to strengthen the continuum from school to careers.

To support the sharing of best practices across the state, a statewide meeting will be held on June 17, 2015 from 9:00-4:00 at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny preceded by a networking reception June 16. Partnership teams of educators, administrators, higher education, economic development, chambers,
and business/industry are encouraged to attend.

To attend the event, prior registration is required and can be completed [here.](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs128/1118232230696/archive/1121297394323.html)

Space is limited and lodging will be provided for attendees to attend the reception June 16 and meeting June 17.

To learn more about the STEM BEST model in Iowa, contact Southeast Regional Manager Kristine Bullock at Kristine-bullock@uiowa.edu.

---

**Fast Approaching Deadline**

The 2014–2015 Scale-up Program Evaluations are due May 30, 2015. The STEM Scale-Up program evaluations are crucial for the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council and all those who are working to make a difference in the lives of Iowa's students.

There are 3 components to the evaluation:
1. Teacher/Leader Survey
2. Student Participation List
3. Student Survey

The video below provides a quick and easy detailed way to complete the Scale-Up Award evaluation:

![Easy Evaluation Process Explained](https://iowastem.gov/scale-monitoring)

Evaluations are required to be completed by any educator who received a Scale-Up award for 2014-2015. Document links are located a on Iowa STEM's website at: [iowastem.gov/scale-monitoring](http://iowastem.gov/scale-monitoring)

Please reach out to Erin Heiden ([erin.heiden@uni.edu](mailto:erin.heiden@uni.edu)) or Mitch Avery ([mitchell.avery@uni.edu](mailto:mitchell.avery@uni.edu)) with questions, challenges, special circumstances, etc.