

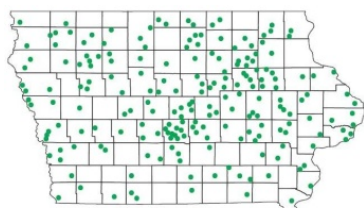
Hawkeye Community College Joins I-Teach Math & Science Teacher Recruitment Program



I-Teach Math & Science, the principal teacher recruitment plan of Iowa's Math & Science Education Partnership (IMSEP), welcomes a new partner to the effort this fall – Hawkeye Community College. Joining UNI, ISU and NIACC, Hawkeye brings a 14-week series featuring math and science teaching professionals from K-16 extolling the virtues of becoming a teacher of math and science. "Each semester we have about 60 students interested in becoming teachers. When I talk about the need for

teachers in Iowa, specifically math and science teachers, we find that many students aren't opposed to becoming math and science instructors, they just didn't realize the opportunities in those fields," said Hawkeye's Assistant Professor of Education Catharine Freeman who is coordinating I-Teach seminar at Hawkeye. She is also talking with Iowa Workforce Development and Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs to tap workers recently unemployed due to the economy or those in career transition. Said Freeman, "I'm excited about the partnership with IMSEP– we are so thankful there's an opportunity to put more professionals in the STEM teaching field." For more information about I-Teach, go to <http://www.iowamathscience.org/i-teach/>.

From Seed to Sapling: IMSEP Takes Root, Branches Out



IMSEP projects can be found around the state.

One year of teacher recruitment, professional development, learning enrichment and collaborative relationship building has given IMSEP plenty to squeeze into an upcoming Annual Report. This report will detail – among other things - an impact on teachers and students in 209 communities spread across 86 counties in its first year of operation, engaging many public and private partners from around the state. An interactive map of impacts can be found at <http://www.iowamathscience.org/map/index.shtml>.

Hagie Manufacturing Hosts Real World Extern



Scott Wittler sizing up a problem at Clarion's Hagie Manufacturing plant.

What skills REALLY matter on the floor of today's advanced manufacturer? Just ask Clarion High School math teacher **Scott Wittler**, who spent his summer as an IMSEP extern at Clarion's Hagie Manufacturing. The first task Scott accomplished was to evaluate the math exam required of new employees. However, the math used on the floor was much more problem-solving oriented and Scott, after interviewing employees, re-wrote the math exam to better reflect the skills new hires need to succeed on the job. Scott also participated in Kaizen/LEAN process events to test the quality of parts manufactured and to decrease process and turnaround times. Hagie HR Director **Dave Maxheimer** saw the benefits of having a school teacher on hand to learn how math skills are applied to the work-a-day world, the value of the externship program and what a high school math teacher from Clarion High School could bring to the Hagie process. "We're very excited to have a connection with Clarion High School now," said Maxheimer. "I like to get kids excited about their future. I like to say to them, 'You are going to work for the next 40 years of your life – what would you like to do?' By opening doors now, kids can acquire the skills they need that will help them decide what their future will hold. Hagie would like to be a part of that process." The company employees 300 people, 10% of the town's population. Hagie feels an on-going relationship with the high

school will prove to be a win/win for educators, students, the organization and, ultimately, the customer who will receive a quality product due to the educated workforce that built the machine. "We feel the IMSEP Externship experience was a win/win for all involved. We would love to see it continue and would like to participate again." For more information regarding the Real World Externships for Math and Science Teachers, go to

<http://www.iowamathscience.org/externships/>.

Math and Science Teacher Preparers Join Forces for Iowa

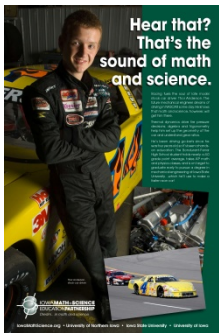


Educators from across the state attend the Iowa Science & Math Teacher Educators Summit.

More than a hundred math and science education professionals from across Iowa's higher education spectrum gathered at Grand View University on Friday, August 14, for a day-long summit to begin conversations toward a common vision of excellence for graduating teachers in these fields. It was, to co-opt the title of a Lionel Hampton jazz number, *the start of something good*. Anchored in research as shared by distinguished keynotes including Department of Education Director **Judy Jeffrey** and legendary science education reformer **Robert Yager**, sessions took up topics ranging from recruitment of talented teachers to emerging nontraditional models for licensure, to gender equitable teaching practices, and more. Attendees evaluated the event overall to be "good" or "excellent" at an eighty-eight percent clip, though many thought we needed even more time

for discussions. Continuation toward the development of action plans will occur through an annual huddle, or in affiliation with state science and math organizations, and possibly through an on-line social network. Artifacts of the day are available at <http://www.iowamathscience.org/summit/>.

"Who Knew Math & Science could be SOOO Cool!" Learner Motivation Target of IMSEP Campaign



If you attended the recent School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) Conference, read about an IMSEP-sponsored workshop, came across our website or caught the television or radio public service announcements we've produced, you will see that IMSEP is hard at work to spark a statewide interest in math and science. IMSEP has an armada of inspiring tactics designed to reverse the perceived waning of interest and motivation in the STEM fields among students. One of the newest additions is classroom-suitable posters featuring Iowa men and women transferring math and science concepts to exciting work and hobby interests. Add these posters to the [television](#) and [radio](#) public service announcements stressing what's "cool" about math and science, Iowa teachers now have new tools to spark an a-ha moment for their students. These posters are now available and will be distributed to teachers throughout the state. If you'd like to request copies of these posters (while supplies last), please send an email to imsep@uni.edu.

IMSEP Welcomes Grant Writer/Project Coordinator Diane Yoder



Diane Yoder staffs the IMSEP booth at the SAI Conference.

The newest member to join the IMSEP team is Grants and Projects Coordinator **Diane Yoder**. Diane previously worked as a grant writer for Indian Hills Community College after 24 years in secondary education. Diane's first order of business is to identify and tap external funding sources to leverage state dollars to expand the IMSEP mission of math and science teacher preparation, practitioner support and Pre-K through collegiate science and math learning enhancement. When asked what she is looking forward to about joining the IMSEP team Diane said, "I'm excited to be a part of an organization that is working to advance math and science education. As a grant writer I look forward to the opportunity to see IMSEP projects come to fruition and to help secure funding for IMSEP's innovative and important goals."

National STEM Education Meeting to Profile IMSEP and Other State Initiatives



A special session of the National Alliance of State Science and Math Coalitions annual meeting on September 10-11 in Washington, DC has been created for state STEM education leaders to share best practices and lessons learned. IMSEP Director Jeff Weld is invited to highlight IMSEP and to facilitate the profiling of similar initiatives in

Arizona, Maine, Texas, Pennsylvania, Minnesota and more than 20 other states. The schedule of events for the conference is at <http://www.nassmc.org/2007ACDM/2009Agenda.pdf>.

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