



# **ACTIVE LEARNING** **AFTER SCHOOL**

DOING • LEARNING • BECOMING

## **ACTIVE LEARNING STEM SYSTEM BUILDING**

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance, in partnership with the STEM Active Learning Community Partners Committee of the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council, seeks to build a system for high-quality STEM opportunities in out-of-school time programs across Iowa.

### **The Goal**

The goal is to substantially increase the number of opportunities for Iowa youth, families, and adults to participate in high-quality, active-learning (informal) STEM outside of the traditional school day.

### **The Focus**

The initial focus will be on providing intensive partnership and program development support to 10 afterschool program sites within two STEM Communities of Practice (CommPacts) in the Southwest and the South Central Regions.

Participating programs will receive intensive technical assistance, exclusive access to aligned STEM initiatives, and training and technical support for evaluation and measuring program quality and student outcomes. As part of the STEM CommPacts, programs will have unprecedented support for active learning, hands-on and engaging STEM after school. Future efforts will seek to replicate the work of the STEM CommPacts across the state within all STEM regions.

### **Active Learning STEM is Important**

- » While STEM is important during the school day, it is also important outside of school. Ninety-five percent of every person's life takes place outside the formal school setting.
- » Out-of-school time programs are an important vehicle for student engagement and increased student interest in STEM.
- » A strong infrastructure currently does not exist for active learning STEM, and filling this gap is necessary for sustaining state and local efforts to increase opportunities and interest in STEM.

### **STEM Active Learning Community Partners Committee**

The STEM Active Learning Community Partners are practice experts and crucial partners for active learning STEM in afterschool across Iowa programs and include the following organizations:

- » Iowa Afterschool Alliance
- » Iowa Children's Museum
- » Iowa Academy of Science
- » Iowa Museum Association
- » World Food Prize Foundation
- » Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council – Southwest and South Central Regional Managers



An initiative of the Iowa Afterschool Alliance, with the support of the STEM Active Learning Community Partners, through a grant from the Noyce Foundation.

**Contact: Indira Blazevic • [iblazevic@sppg.com](mailto:iblazevic@sppg.com) • 515.243.2000**