



**ACTIVE LEARNING**  
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

## A Committee of the Governor's STEM Advisory Council

### WHAT IS STEM ACTIVE LEARNING?

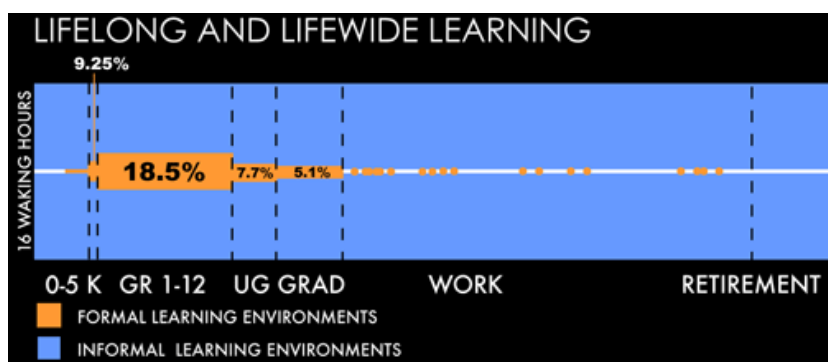
Active learning STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education provides engaging, hands-on learning opportunities for all ages in environments outside the formal school setting.

These opportunities positively impact student interest and achievement in STEM, as well as build public awareness of STEM in non-traditional settings.

### Why is Active Learning STEM important?

Informal STEM organizations and programs engage lowans in active learning that advances 21st Century skills, as well as STEM identity and conceptual understandings. Because ninety-five percent of every person's life takes place outside the formal school setting, an informal active learning infrastructure is critical to increased student interest and achievement in STEM.

The ability of lowans to create an innovative STEM workforce is not dependent on schools alone, but also on our ability to build a dynamic STEM Active Learning Community of partnerships capable of delivering exemplary STEM active learning experiences to positively impact student interest and achievement.



LIFE Center: Stevens, R. Bransford, J. & Stevens, A., 2005

**STEM is the acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. In today's complex world, STEM fields are, more than ever, the basis for innovative problem-solving and discovery – skills best acquired through exploratory learning and active student engagement.**

[www.iowastem.gov](http://www.iowastem.gov)

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## How does the STEM Active Learning Community Partners seek to promote and expand Informal STEM in Iowa?

The STEM Active Learning Community Partners, under the leadership of the Governor's STEM Advisory Council, seeks to build a strong STEM education foundation for all Iowans through Informal STEM networking, advocacy, strategy alignment, and resource development.

**Networking:** bring together active learning STEM professionals to collaborate and share best practices.

**Advocacy:** educate stakeholders and the public on effective active learning STEM and build awareness of, support for, and investment in active learning STEM education.

**Strategy Alignment:** connect initiatives and efforts to ensure that the public is continuously exposed to high-quality, engaging, and inspiring STEM activities.

**Resource Development:** develop resources that expand effective active learning STEM practices in an effort to ensure quality, access and equity across the state.

Additional support is provided by State Public Policy Group's Indira Blazevic, [iblazevic@sppg.com](mailto:iblazevic@sppg.com).