Summer biotechnology workshops for educators CANCELLED for 2020

The disruptions caused by the COVID-19 virus outbreak have resulted in the cancellation of the summer 2020 biotechnology workshops hosted by the Biotechnology Outreach Education Center (BOEC) at Iowa State University.

The Office of Biotechnology and BOEC regret disappointing the educators who planned to attend, but the health and well-being of our off-campus visitors and university employees must be the top priority. Please watch for details about the summer 2021 workshops shortly after the first of the year.

Thank you for your understanding, and have an enjoyable and healthy summer!

Iowa Biotech Opportunities

ISTS fall conference October 4-5

The Iowa Science Teaching Section fall conference is at the Science Center of Iowa in West Des Moines (pre-conference) on Oct. 4 and the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny (conference) on Oct. 5. Details and a flyer are available at sciencein.iowa.org. The BOEC will again be represented at the conference. Make plans to stop by the BOEC’s exhibitor display.

BOEC Lab Notes

Please recycle lab supplies

This is the final issue of the Iowa Biotech Educator for the 2019-2020 school year. Before you leave for the summer, please recycle any free biotechnology lab supplies that you ordered from Iowa State University’s Office of Biotechnology during this school year.

How to recycle Iowa State supplies

The 10X TBE bottles and unused pipette tips and boxes are refilled or reused for other teachers. To help keep costs down, please return these items to Lori Miller, Iowa State University, Office of Biotechnology, 1210 Molecular Biology Bldg., 2437 Pammel Drive, Ames 50011-1079. Please empty and rinse the 10X TBE bottles before you return them. Thank you for your help.
Iowa Biotech Competitions

I.O.W.A. STEM Teacher Award 2020 recipients announced

The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council and Kemin Industries have announced the recipients of the 2020 I.O.W.A. STEM Teacher Award sponsored by Kemin Industries.

Each year, the I.O.W.A. STEM Teacher Award recognizes one teacher from each of the six STEM regions for their dedication to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education for Iowa students.

Before being selected by a panel of judges, recipients were nominated for the award by a colleague, school administrator, parent, student or community member and completed an application showcasing their contributions to creating quality STEM education in Iowa. Each recipient receives a $1,500 award for their classroom and an additional $1,500 for personal use.

The 2020 recipients are:

- **Northwest Region**: Matt Hansen, industrial technology teacher, MMCRU High School (Marcus)
- **North Central Region**: Melissa Taft, first grade teacher, Forest City Elementary School (Forest City)
- **Northeast Region**: Ann Arnold, mathematics teacher, Alternative Learning Center (Dubuque)
- **Southwest Region**: Shelly Miller, business education teacher, CAM High School (Anita)
- **South Central Region**: Ronda McCarthy, middle school science teacher, St. Theresa Catholic School (Des Moines)
- **Southeast Region**: Megan Bildner, chemistry teacher, Pleasant Valley High School (Bettendorf)

All six recipients were honored with ceremonies at their schools and recognized together at STEM Day at the Capitol by STEM Council co-chairs Gov. Kim Reynolds and Roger Hargens, Accumold president and CEO; legislators from the Iowa House and Senate; and Libby Nelson, VP and general counsel at Kemin Industries, on Wednesday, February 19.

For more information about the award and all current and previous recipients, please visit https://iowastem.gov/teacheraward.

Iowa Regional High School Science Bowl

Ames High School students won the 2020 Iowa Regional High School Science Bowl hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Ames Laboratory and Iowa State University in January.

Congratulations to students Andres Cordoba, Ne Dassanayake, Alexander Kovar, Jacob Stevens, Rishabh Swamy, and their coach Aileen Sullivan who advanced to the U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl® to be held April 30 to May 4 in Washington, D.C. Congratulations also to runner-up Pleasant Valley (Bettendorf), and third place Valley High School (West Des Moines).

Thirty-three schools competed in this year’s event.

Iowa Regional Middle School Science Bowl

Ames Middle School students placed first in the 2020 Iowa Regional Middle School Science Bowl hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Ames Laboratory and Iowa State University in February. Thirty-two teams competed in the event.

Congratulations to the winning team of Ames students that included Abhi Amuluru, Jacques Attinger, Aidan Krueger, Aneesh Shrotriya, Siray Zhu, and their coach Jordan DiLorenzo. Ames advances to the National Middle School Science Bowl® to compete April 30 to May 4. Congratulations also to Indian Hills Middle School (Clive) for a second-place finish and Stilwell Middle School (West Des Moines) who finished third.
Welcome to the spring edition of the Iowa Biotech Educator. As you learned on p. 1, the Biotechnology Outreach Education Center’s (BOEC) summer 2020 workshops have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation. We regret that these popular workshops for educators could not be held in 2020, but we are looking forward to offering them again next year.

Even though the summer 2020 workshops had to be cancelled, we will continue to plan and build curriculum for the 2021 workshops. These workshops are designed to enhance your curriculum’s STEM, life science Iowa Core, and Next Generation Science Standards criteria by bringing the newest life science principles and techniques into your classrooms.

Please continue to visit the Biotech website for updates (www.biotech.iastate.edu). We still need your help in getting the word out to colleagues in your district who can benefit from the year-round services the Iowa State biotechnology education program offers. Encourage any colleague who shows interest in the services to contact us with their e-mail so we can send them updated information about the program.

Spring in the BOEC

Even though the BOEC has been closed for visits/tours from March 16 until further notice, we are still continuing the free supply and equipment program for those schools and organizations who make requests. As schools begin to investigate using online teaching to finish the academic year, you are encouraged and most welcome to use materials from our education web page at www.biotech.iastate.edu/for-k-14-educators/ for online/tele-teaching materials. I also want to offer you content materials that I use in my Biotech teaching that are not found on the web page. These include PowerPoint lectures and lab protocols that can be easily converted for use in online/tele-teaching. Please contact me by e-mail (below), and we’ll discuss how to get the materials to you. To order supplies and equipment, e-mail Lori Miller (lorimill@iastate.edu) or me (mzeller@iastate.edu).

New to the Biotech website is a BOEC Sphere of Influence page at www.biotech.iastate.edu/boec-sphere-of-influence-map. The web design, communications, and administrative staff in the Office of Biotechnology got together to create this outstanding visual showing the educators in Iowa and other states who have benefitted from the education services offered by the BOEC over the years. It is impressive work and great to see the Iowa State biotech public education program’s outreach impact.

Future newsletter issues

Feel free to forward the link given below or make hard copies of this newsletter to distribute among your life science, agriculture, and family and consumer science staff and departments. You can always find copies of the newsletter on our website at www.biotech.iastate.edu/iowa-biotech-educator-newsletter/. The next issue of the Iowa Biotech Educator will greet you electronically as you arrive back at school in August. That issue will announce all curriculum materials, familiar and new, and our current slate of outreach opportunities that will be available for you during the 2020-2021 school year. Have a great, healthy, and restful summer!

National DNA Day is April 25

genome.gov/dnaday

National DNA Day commemorates the completion of the Human Genome Project in April 2003 and the publication of the discovery of the double helix of DNA in 1953 by James Watson and Francis Crick. DNA Day is celebrated annually on April 25th by action of the 108th Congress designating it as DNA Day.

For events in Iowa and other states, activity ideas, and more about the history of DNA, visit the National DNA Day website given above. The website is hosted by the National Human Genome Research Institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
About Iowa State’s Public Education Program in Biotechnology. . .

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To Contact the Program
Phone: 515-294-9818
E-mail: biotech@iastate.edu
WWW: www.biotech.iastate.edu

Public Education Program Personnel
Jeanne Serb, Associate Professor of Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology and Director of the Office of Biotechnology
Mike Zeller, Biotechnology Outreach Education Coordinator
Lori Miller, Program Secretary
Glenda Webber, Editor
Joel Nott, Assistant Scientist, and Camie Stockhausen, Communications Specialist, Homepage Webmasters