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### **Kids, Families Explore Science and Tech at SCC's Annual STEMfest**

*West Burlington, IA* – In February 2018, Southeastern Community College (SCC) hosted STEMfest in partnership with the Southeast Iowa STEM Hub.

More than 1,800 people attended STEMfest, which exposes kids and families to careers in STEM-related fields through hands-on activities, exhibits, and demonstrations. Participants explored STEM careers through robotics and healthcare simulations, as well as electronics and renewable energy exhibits.

With the growing demand for jobs requiring digital and technical skills, a background in STEM is essential for many careers. SCC Work-Based Learning Specialist Leanne Krogmeier, says STEMfest is a great way for students to explore careers in Southeast Iowa's industries.

"STEM jobs continue to dominate the list of hot careers," says Krogmeier. "That's why it's so important we get kids interested while they're young. STEMfest is a fun and creative way to expose kids to concepts and career paths they may never consider."

Exhibitors from across the region attended the event to introduce children to STEM careers. Niabi Zoo gave a presentation featuring birds and reptiles in one classroom. Across the hall Absolute Science involved kids and families in hands-on demonstrations. The Grout Museum transformed SCC's Little Theater into a mini-planetarium.

Attendees also had the opportunity to test the various STEM-centered technology throughout the college, including animation, graphic design, and the patient simulation center and EMT ambulance lab in SCC's new Health Professions Center.

"Our goal is to continue to show students and parents how fun STEM can be," says Krogmeier.

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