

EDUCATION

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Technology track

Grant supports math, science in Corridor

By Kristina Gleeson

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MARION — The Corridor's attempts to produce more scientists, engineers and other such workers got a \$200,000 shot in the arm Wednesday.

Gov. Chet Culver administered the shot, figuratively, to a crowd of more than 100 at the Iowa State University/Linn County Extension Office in Marion.



Gov. Chet Culver
Announced grant

He gave it, on behalf of the Iowa Department of Education, to the Grant Wood Area Education Agency.

Culver said he looks forward to making Iowa "The Silicon Valley of the Midwest," starting by beefing up a Corridor initiative.

In November, education and business leaders began working to improve teaching in science, technology, engineering and math in the Corridor through the STEM project.

A committee held nine pre-engineering pilot programs this summer for about 200 6- to 12-year-olds in Iowa, Johnson and Linn counties.

The grant will ensure such programs continue and expand into the school year, Culver said.

Culver said new companies have been coming to Iowa and hiring.



Chris Kelleher/The Gazette

University of Iowa College of Engineering Dean Barry Butler of Iowa City works with Samantha Crist, 10, of Central City, on building a rocket out of construction paper and index cards at the "Engineering is Elementary" class Wednesday at the Iowa State University Linn County Extension office in Marion. Gov. Chet Culver was at the office Wednesday to give the Grant Wood Area Education Agency a \$200,000 state grant to further science, technology, engineering and math education.

Rapids," said Clay Jones, Rockwell Collins' chairman, president and CEO. But, he added, "We're concerned that our country and our state is not producing enough trained tech-specific people."

The number of U.S. engineering degrees awarded

He cited a 2006 survey that found 84 percent of American middle school students would rather clean their rooms, take out the garbage or go to the dentist than do math homework.

In Iowa, "we'll be 150,000 workers short in the next five to 10 years if we don't

the math and science fields.

"We must make sure Iowa's students are focused on the importance of math and science in the future" so they can graduate and get jobs in those areas, Culver said.

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Clay Jones
Rockwell
Collins CEO

coming to Iowa and hiring.