

Radio Iowa

Million Women Mentors – Iowa launches today (AUDIO)

September 24, 2014 By [O. Kay Henderson](#)



Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds kicks off the mentor program.

Iowa is joining a national effort to recruit mentors who'll encourage young women to pursue careers in the so-called "STEM" fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds says "Million Women Mentors – Iowa" has the goal of lining up 5000 men and women within the next four years who will mentor teenage girls.

"In high school we want to increase the number of women that are looking at the STEM classes and in college we want to increase the number of young women that are participating in undergraduate STEM careers and then to keep them in the STEM fields," Reynolds says.

Jana Rieker, a Bankers Trust VP who is co-chair of the effort, says for every 100 females in college, only 12 are taking STEM courses and just three of them will wind up in a career in science, technology, engineering or math.

“So clearly there is an opportunity for us to make a difference by providing mentors for those young women,” Rieker says.

Iowa Association of Business and Industry president Mike Ralston — the other co-chair of the campaign to recruit mentors — says about 1500 adults from 13 Iowa businesses have already signed up to be a mentor.

“Company owners know that we need to make sure that Iowa’s young women and girls and young men and boys are involved in their careers to the highest of their potential,” Ralston says. “and so whether you’re in Waverly or Waukee or Lenox or Sheffield or wherever you are in Iowa, we want to make sure you have access to great opportunities and one way to do that is by having a mentor.”

Iowa is the first state to launch a public-private partnership to recruit mentors for young women.

The women’s basketball coaches at Drake, Iowa State, Iowa and UNI along with the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union are participating in a “Coaches’ Mentoring Challenge” to connect female students with mentors. Drake University Athletic Director Sandy Hatfield-Clubb says two players on the Drake’s women’s basketball team who are math and science majors are the first to sign up to be mentors.

“As a woman in a male-dominated field, I know first-hand how important mentors can be to building confidence, to building courage and to helping young people achieve their goals,” Hatfield-Clubb says.

The lieutenant governor describes her father as her biggest supporter and he encouraged her to pursue her dreams, but there wasn’t anyone pushing her to consider science or math as a career when she was in high school.

“I think maybe that’s one of the reasons I’m such a big cheerleader for this initiative,” Reynolds says. “When I see teams like their first robotics or their first Lego League, when I see young women and kids participating...and how excited and energized they are...I think I could have been a scientist, too.”

Go to the [Million Women Mentors – Iowa website](#) to learn more.



AUDIO

of press conference at statehouse, 30:00

KCCI-TV – (CBS Affiliate)

Thousands of mentors to help Iowa girls pursue STEM careers

UPDATED 11:03 AM CDT Sep 24, 2014



DES MOINES, Iowa —Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds and community leaders announced a new effort Wednesday to create a mentoring program to encourage girls to pursue science, technology, engineering, and math jobs.

The statewide effort named Million Women Mentors Iowa hopes to have 5,000 female and male mentors from all 99 counties in the next four years.

"In the United States, STEM is a driving force behind economic growth, stability and educational success. That's why, we're creating an environment in Iowa that prepares all of our students with the necessary skills to compete in a global knowledge-based economy," said Reynolds in a news release.

Officials said great jobs await Iowa girls going into STEM fields. In the past 10 years, growth in STEM jobs has been three times greater than non-STEM jobs, officials said.

"We know 80 percent of the fastest growing occupations in the United States depend upon mastery of mathematics and scientific knowledge and skills. Being able to secure 5,000 female and male mentors in Iowa to urge young girls and women to consider STEM fields is a huge step forward in increasing awareness and generating excitement," said Jana Rieker, co-chair of the effort and Bankers Trust vice president of sales and marketing.

Iowa State University, University of Iowa and University of Northern Iowa will be joining Drake University in the Coaches' Mentoring Challenge for women. In addition, Drake University has pledged 100 mentors to the initiative over the next four years.

For more information and to sign up to be a mentor, goto www.mwmia.org

Read more: <http://www.kcci.com/news/thousands-of-mentors-to-help-iowa-girls-pursue-stem-careers/28222874#ixzz3EFILIELW>

WHO TV – (NBC Affiliate)

Million Women Mentors Initiative Launched

Posted 10:29 am, September 24, 2014, by [Reid Chandler](#)



Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds announcing Million Women Mentors initiative (WHO-HD/Reid Chandler)

DES MOINES, Iowa — In an effort to increase the number of females in the industries of science, technology, engineering, and math, Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds announced a state-wide initiative Wednesday to provide mentors to young girls all over Iowa.

The “Million Women Mentors” initiative is a national campaign that launched in January 2014. The “Million Women Mentors – Iowa” branch aims to recruit 5,000 male and female mentors in all 99 counties over the next four years for girls aged 12 and up interested in the STEM field.

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

There will be a curriculum to connect mentors with ideas on how to spend their time with mentees, who have to commit at least 20 hours a year.

“The younger we can start working with young people, and young women and young girls, and help them develop the interest, the exposure, and the confidence, then we’re going to see that foster into great opportunities for them throughout their lifetime,” Reynolds said.

You don’t need to have worked in the STEM field to help with the initiative. Reynolds highlighted board members whose work may be in the field of marketing, but still involves a lot of new technology.

Reynolds announced a number of state businesses who already support the initiative; Hy-Vee has pledged 500 employees to the mentor program. Others, including Bankers Trust and the Meredith Corporation, are pledging their involvement, too.

Reynolds sent the challenge to each other lieutenant governor in the country in the hope that the Million Women Mentors program spreads across every state.

Another effort announced to coincide with the Million Women Mentors initiative in the state was the “Coaches’ Mentoring Challenge”; basketball coaches from all over the state of Iowa will collaborate in recruiting mentors for females interested in the STEM field.

“In the past 10 years, growth in STEM jobs has been three times greater than non-STEM jobs,” said Jana Rieker, Bankers Trust Vice President of Sales and Marketing, and a co-chair of the MWM-Iowa executive board. “Also, women with STEM jobs earn 33 percent more than females in non-STEM jobs.”

For more information, or to sign up to be a mentor, visit the Million Women Mentors – Iowa website, [here](#).

Associated Press Story

*Picked up by KTTC TV – (NBC Affiliate in Rochester, MN)

*KWWL TV – (NBC Affiliate in Waterloo, IA)

*KGAN TV – (CBS Affiliate in Cedar Rapids, IA)

Reynolds announces mentoring for young women

Posted: Sep 24, 2014 11:26 AM CDT

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) - Iowa is launching a statewide effort to recruit mentors to encourage young women to consider careers in science and technology, Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds announced Wednesday.

The effort is part of a national campaign called Million Women Mentors. The Iowa program seeks to enlist 5,000 mentors for young women in the state over the next four years to encourage women to pursue science, technology, engineering and math, often called STEM, education. Officials said 1,500 have already signed up.

Reynolds said STEM education "continues to grow momentum across the state." She stressed that there are good job prospects in related fields and said women should seek out those opportunities.

The program will be geared at girls aged 12 and older, and mentors will be expected to offer at least 20 hours a year in service. Some companies and universities have already pledged to participate, including Hy-Vee, Vermeer Manufacturing, the Principal Corporation, Drake University and all three of the state's public universities.

For those interested in participating, the program is online at www.mwmia.org.

Sioux City Journal

Reynolds announces mentoring for young women



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The Des Moines Register

'Women Mentors' initiative launched to push girls toward STEM jobs



William Petroski, bpetrosk@dmreg.com 11:32 a.m. CDT September 24, 2014



(Photo: Des Moines Register/William Petroski)

Iowa is launching an initiative known as "Million Women Mentors," which has a goal of enlisting 5,000 mentors to urge girls and young women to pursue careers in science, technology engineering and math.

Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds said the goal of the public/private partnership is to attract male and female mentors from all 99 Iowa counties. She noted that growth in so-called STEM jobs has been three times greater than non-STEM jobs, and that women with STEM jobs earn 33 percent than females in other fields.

"I believe mentors can guide, encourage, and open doors for girls and young women to be fully equipped for the great jobs of tomorrow in STEM-related careers," Reynolds said at an Iowa Capitol news conference where the initiative was announced on Wednesday. Science, technology, mathematics and engineering are a driving force nationally behind economic growth, stability and educational success, Reynolds said. State officials want to create an environment that prepares all students with skills to compete in a knowledge-based economy, she added.

The Million Women Mentors program is a national initiative with 25 states signed up to participate, but Iowa is the first to develop such a model, said Edie Fraser, who heads the national effort. The Iowa program's co-chairs are Mike Ralston, president of the Iowa Association of Business and Industry, and Jana Rieker, vice president of sales and marketing for Bankers Trust.

Thirteen Iowa companies and educational institutions have already pledged a total of more than 1,200 mentors, so the program is off to a good start, Ralston said. The goal of 5,000 mentors is planned over four years. Females ages 12 and older are eligible to be mentored. Companies and educational institutions that have pledged mentors include Hy-Vee, EMC, Bankers Trust, the Iowa Association of Business and Industry, Meredith Corp., Principal Corp., Pella Corp., Vermeer Manufacturing; plus Des Moines Area Community College, Drake University, Iowa State University, University of Iowa, and University of Northern Iowa.

Rieker said being able to secure 5,000 male and female mentors in a huge step forward in increasing awareness and generating excitement for careers in STEM fields. Eighty percent of the fastest-growing occupations in the United States depend upon mastery of mathematics and scientific knowledge and skills, she added.

In a related matter, a "Coaches Mentoring Challenge" will be undertaken that is aimed at having Iowa high school and college coaches collaborate in recruiting mentors for females interested in STEM fields. Coaches will reach out to their university, college, or high school campus networks, including the fan base and media in their communities.

Jennie Baranczyk, Drake University's women's basketball coach, has been named as the official spokesperson for the coaches' mentoring challenge, which will begin in November. More information about the Million Women Mentors program is available at www.mwmia.org

