UNI STEM AMBASSADORS DEBUT AT CEDAR VALLEY STEM FESTIVAL

UNI’s 7 STEM Ambassadors will share their passion for UNI and STEM with local students and families this afternoon at the Cedar Valley STEM Festival. The STEM Ambassadors developed their own interactive table displays which will allow students to learn about STEM topics related to each Ambassador’s own major and department.

Emily, from Textiles and Apparel, and Baily, from Technology Education, created an exhibit on materials science. With Emily students try to identify highly magnified images of different fabrics using a key. Students will compare the layers of a winter coat to the layers of a house to illustrate that materials are both designed and selected for specific purposes. Baily’s will ask students to predict how quickly an ice cube will melt when placed on to two seemingly identical black blocks. One of the blocks is made of aluminum and cold to the touch, the other is made of pressurized foam and neutral to the touch. Which do you think will melt the ice faster? We’re not telling!

Britney, an early childhood mathematics major, and Kara, an Environmental Geology Major, want to introduce students to maps and measuring distances with maps while exploring STEM careers around the world and close to home. Students will be given clues about three different locations that are connected to the same STEM topics. As they figure out where the mystery places are, they will learn that one is in Iowa, one is someplace else in the US and one is someplace else in the world. STEM happens everywhere!

Allison’s Chemistry and Biochemistry Table is all about phases. Students will observe matter in solid, liquid and gas form and see a demonstration of what is going on at the molecular level in each phase. They will be able to make and take home their own sample of a Non-Newtonian Fluid—silly putty!

At the CSI Science table with Sarah (Ecology & Evolution) and Jordon (Secondary Biology Teaching), students will be asked to help solve a mystery. TC has disappeared! Can the ink on a ransom letter, a foot print, and trace blood found at the scene serve as evidence and help us find our beloved TC? Never fear by the end of the night the mystery will be solved! And by the end of the night fun will be had by all!

The STEM Ambassadors will not be alone, this festival will bring together over 80 exhibitors. UNI students, faculty and staff from Science Education, Earth Science, Upward Bound and the N.E. Iowa Regional STEM Hub will have booths. The STEM Festival, a collaboration between the North East Iowa Regional STEM Hub, Waterloo Public Schools, Cedar Falls Public Schools and many area businesses and organizations, is expecting a crowd of over 2,500. More information about the festival, including a downloadable “express pass” is available at http://www.neiowastem.com/stem-festivals/.