

# Iowa Math & Science Education Partnership

**Strategy:** To get Iowa high school students interested in math and science, while explaining to their teachers and administrators – and other influencers – what IMSEP is doing to grow the number of math and science teachers in the state.

**Big Idea:** Combine a brochure and a poster: teachers and administrators get the program details and students see posters of real-world math and science “rock stars,” such as a 16-year-old race car driver and a system engineer who makes character-shaped fruit snacks.

**How’d we do?** The posters now adorn the walls of high school math and science classrooms across Iowa, and feedback has been quite positive. The poster featuring race car driver Thor Anderson has been particularly popular among teachers, who say that his hobby and his youth help them to inspire a type of student not typically drawn to the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields of study.

*“Undoubtedly, the five posters are serving as informative, captivating and expertly produced representations of the Iowa Math & Science Education Partnership.”*

— Jeffrey Weld  
Director, Iowa Math & Science Education Partnership

## Engineer Your Future, with Math and Science

Whether it's SpongBob SquarePants®, Scooby Doo® or My Little Pony®, Lee Henanson makes sure that fruit snacks like our favorite characters is tasty safe and profitable. As the full in-plant system engineer for General Mills she helps keep the company's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Cedar Rapids, Iowa running well, 24 hours a day seven days a week.

Lee Henanson, Full In-Plant System Engineer, General Mills, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

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Dedicated in math and science

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## Ignite your imagination, with science

For as long as he can remember, Albert Waggoner asked “Why?” When he couldn't figure out the answer quickly he took the time to do the research to learn why things happened and how he could play a role in spreading that curiosity to others. He planned to save the world, as a doctor, and then discovered his gift for teaching.

Today, Waggoner is leading a new generation of students as a science teacher, administrator and academic director of the new George Washington Career Academy in Waterloo, Iowa.

He challenges his students to do more with new technology and new approaches and makes abstract concepts come to life. He helps them answer the question “Why?”

Albert Waggoner, Science Teacher, Career Academy and Program Director, George Washington Career Academy, Waterloo, Iowa

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## Hear that? That's the sound of math and science.

Racing fuels the soul of 16-year-old model stock car driver Thor Anderson. The future mechanical engineer dreams of driving NASCAR some day. He knows that math and science, however, will get him there.

Thermal dynamics drive the pressure decisions, algebra and trigonometry help him tell the geometry of the car and understand gear ratios.

He's been driving go-karts since he was four years old, so if there's anything on education, the Bondurant Family High School student holds nearly a 100% grade point average, takes AP math and physics classes, and is on target to graduate early to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering at Iowa State University... which he'll use to make a faster race car.

Thor Anderson, Model Stock Driver

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