

# All In: A Collaborative Approach to Bringing Computer Science Opportunities Statewide



*Mauree Haage, Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council*

## Background Information

- Computer Science Education Week (CS Ed Week) is held nationally the first part of December each year
- Was launched in 2009 and is intended to raise awareness about the need to elevate computer science education at all levels as well as highlight the critical roles of computing careers
- In 2013, Code.org joined CS Ed Week efforts by introducing "Hour of Code"
- Even at the national level, CS Ed Week has been a collaborative effort of multiple stakeholders
- In 2022, the concept of creating a statewide, unified approach in Iowa was introduced

## Goals

- Unified approach
- Efficiency and consistency regarding:
  - Curating resources
  - Marketing and communication
  - Hosting events (both live and virtual)
- Recognize shared audience
  - Honor educator time and energy
  - Minimize CS Ed Week communications and requests
- Leverage roles and talents of interested organizations
- Meet the needs of different stakeholders within the state
  - Educators and school districts
  - Industry partners
  - Informal educators
  - Institutions of higher education

## Forming the Team

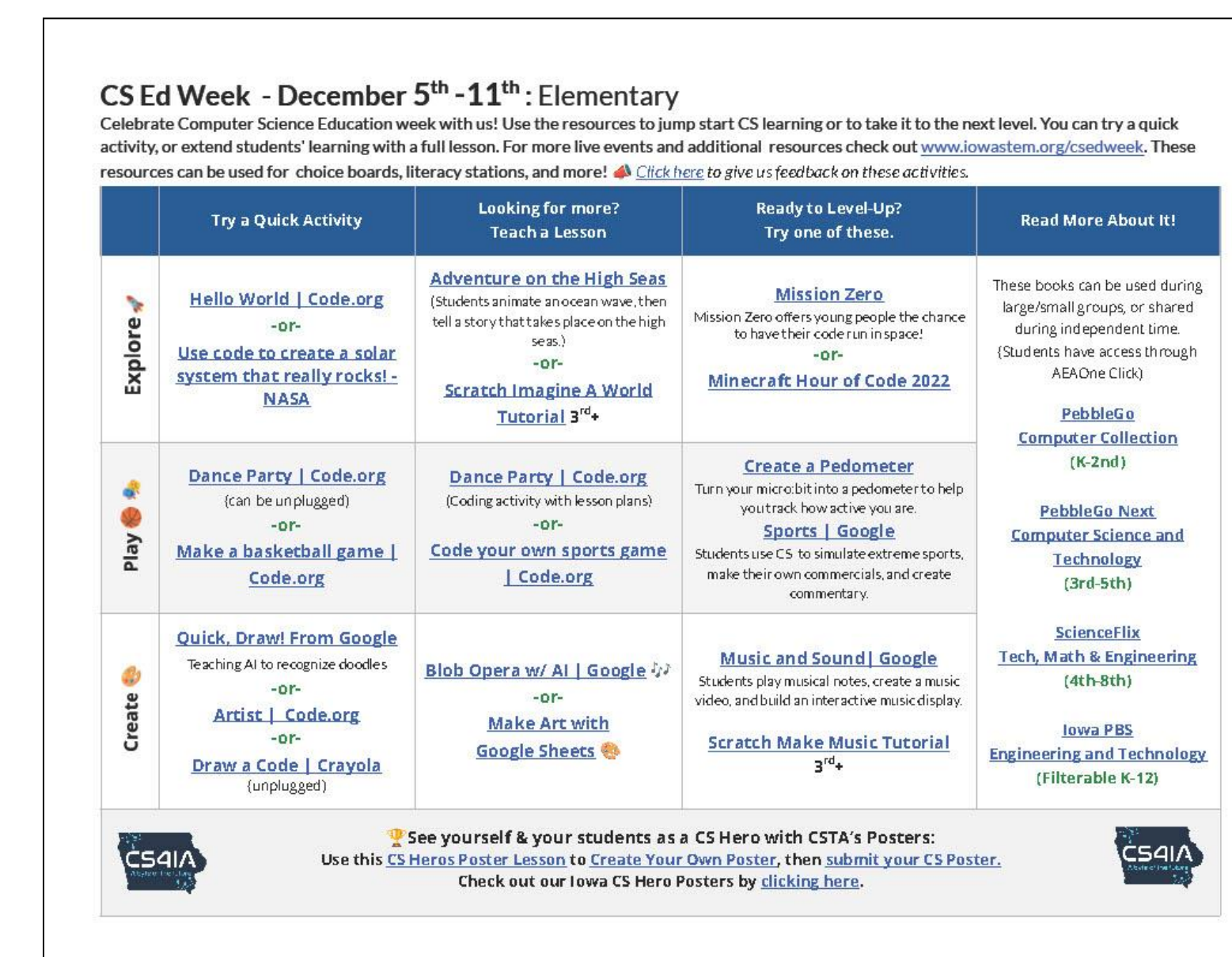
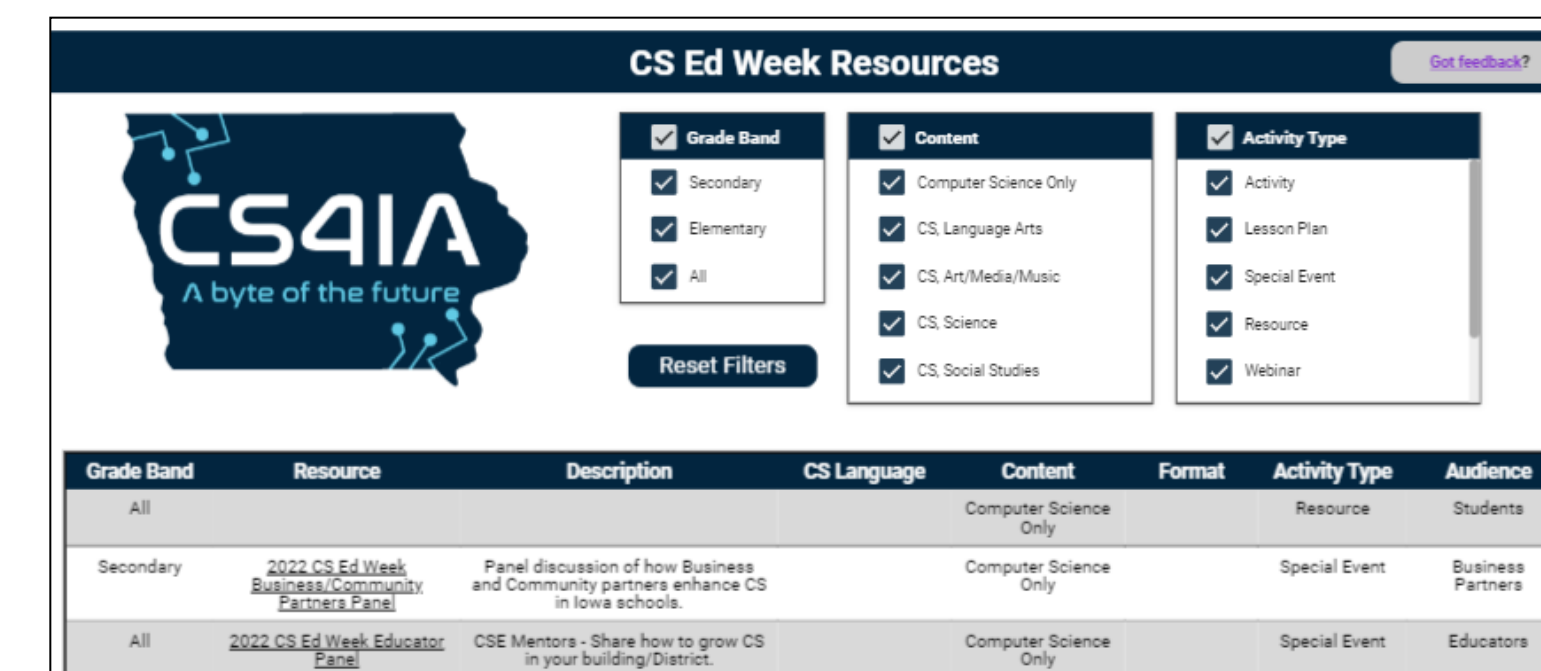
When inviting partners, the goal was to be intentional in including:

- National, state, and regional advocates
- Educators and educational leaders
- Technology Industry and Business
- Informal educators (after school organizations, libraries, 4-H, etc.)
- Non-profit and community partners
- Workplace learning connection
  - Hosted at community colleges and provides high school students job shadow opportunities, internships, and more
- State government agencies

## Three-Pronged Approach

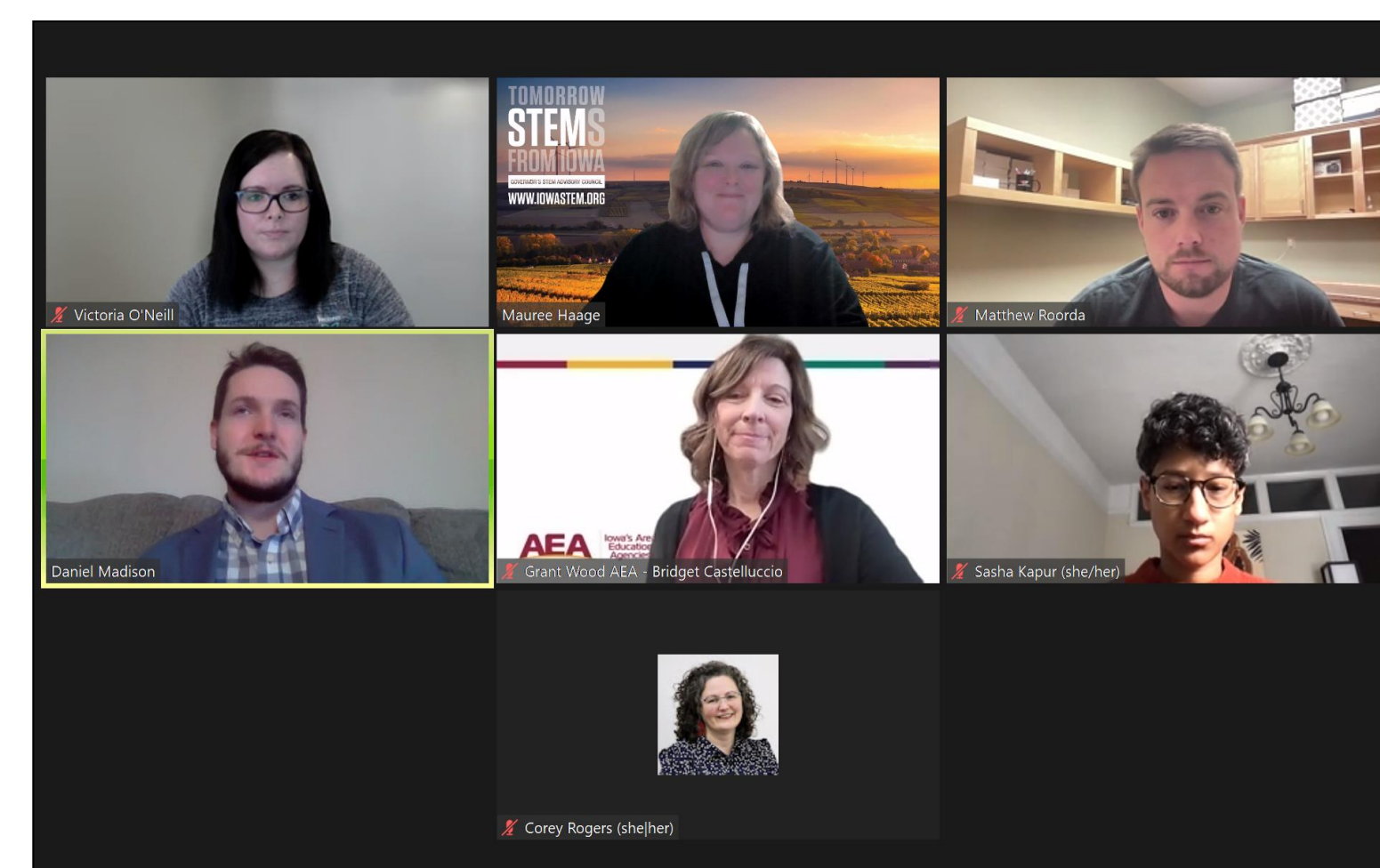
### Resources

- Consistent, statewide resources housed in one place
- Educators can search by activity type, grade band, and cross-curricular content areas
- Grade banded, theme-based resource guides for educators



### Panels/Webinars

- Synchronous events for multiple audiences
- Recorded and uploaded to resources database for use beyond the live event
- Directly connected to pathways and careers in computer science



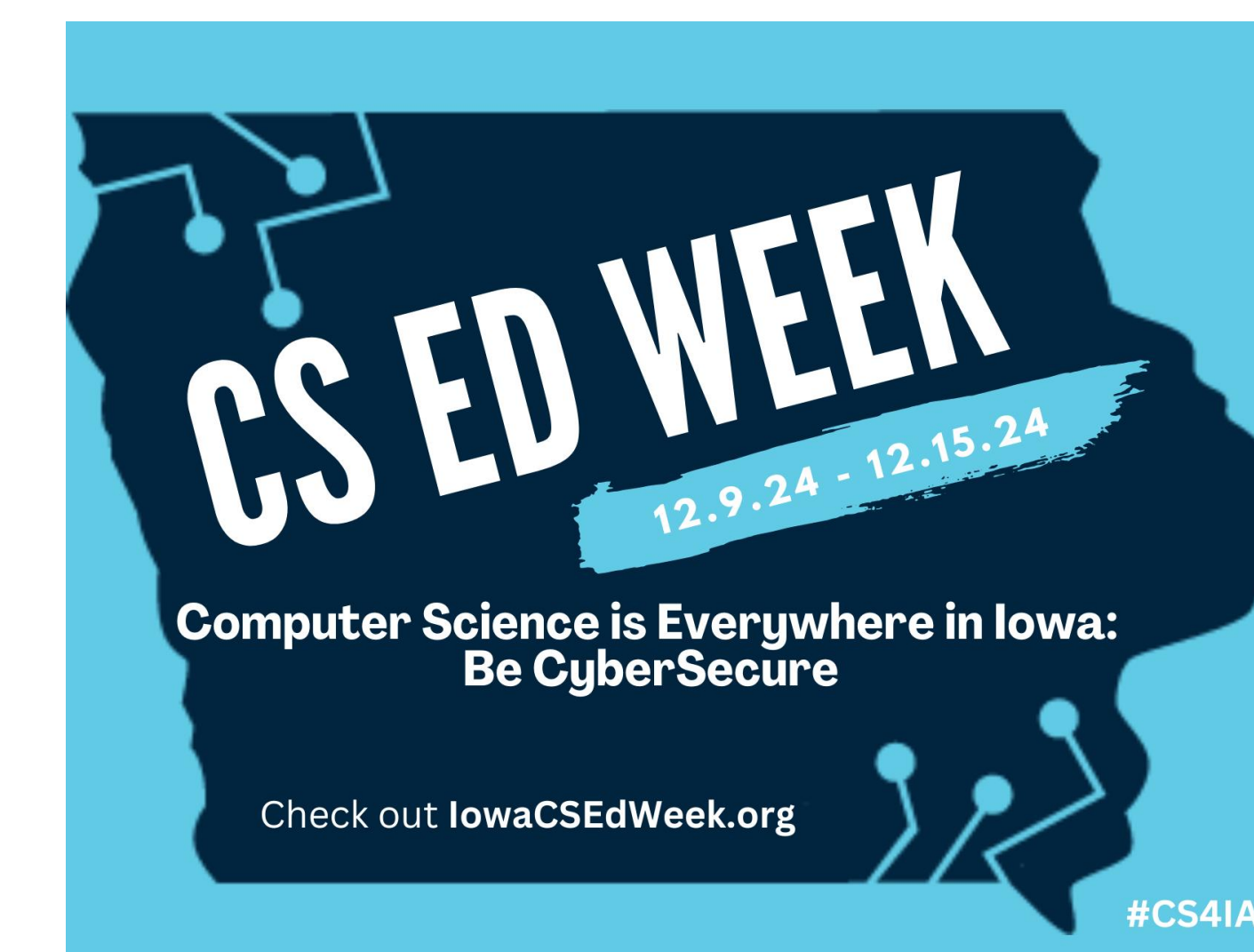
### Events

- One statewide family coding event for elementary students and caregivers
  - Event held virtually with in person host sites throughout state
  - Recorded and uploaded to resources database for use beyond the live event
- Also partnered with the Iowa Space Grant Consortium to include computer science activities for their Nutcracker Ballet + STEM event



## Outreach/Communications

- Branded social media posts and communications templates were created and used to communicate to stakeholders
- All resources, past and present, are housed on a website just for Iowa Computer Science Education Week
- Website and resources are shared year-round



## Next Steps

- Include more informal educators in the planning and running of CS Ed Week events
- Find ways to increase participation in feedback surveys
- Improve data collection specifically on resource database and video recordings
- Identify potential funding sources in order to expand and help reduce financial burdens to host sites
- Continue to examine ways to alleviate barriers to participation of students and their families

## Past and Present Partners

