

# **i-STEM 2018: Bridging the Gap - Partnering, Collaborating and Mentoring in our Digital Backyard**

Course Syllabus – Spring 2019

Angela Hemingway and Kaitlin Maguire, STEM Action Center

**Course Number:** KE193TE4627

**Course Hours:** One (1)

**Link to Registration:**

<https://acecreek.boisestate.edu/wconnect/CourseStatus.awp?&course=KE193TE4627>

**Registration Deadline:** March 15, 2019, midnight MST

**Location and Course Dates:**

- In Person Training: i-STEM Institute – Late June
- Independent Work: July 2018 – March 2019
- Final Summary Due: April 1, 2019 by midnight MST

**Course Cost:** \$60

**Instructor Email:** Angela Hemingway [Angela.Hemingway@STEM.Idaho.gov](mailto:Angela.Hemingway@STEM.Idaho.gov), 208-332-1726

Kaitlin Maguire [istem@STEM.Idaho.gov](mailto:istem@STEM.Idaho.gov), 802-356-2060

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** i-STEM is a four day professional development institute focused on STEM education. This year's theme is Bridging the Gap: Partnering, Collaborating and Mentoring in our Digital Backyard. General sessions during the institute will focus on the value of mentorship in STEM, especially for underrepresented and low SES populations. Participants will learn how they and their students can connect with mentors virtually through the Mentorship Platform, an online mentor matching engine that supports project based mentoring. After the institute, participants will work with their students to register them into the platform and develop a project that would benefit from a mentor. Participants will then monitor the progress of the project in the Mentorship Platform and report back on the experience. If student projects are not possible, alternatively, participants will connect with a mentor in the platform or within their community and have them visit (virtually or in-person) their classroom/organization/program to interact with students.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Mentorship increases exposure, interest and education in STEM, especially for underrepresented and low SES populations. Engaging mentors can be difficult for educators, especially in rural communities that are common throughout Idaho. Through this course, educators will learn how to engage with and connect students to mentors using the virtual Mentorship Platform. They will also learn how to incorporate mentors into their STEM lesson plans. Every student deserves access to a high quality mentor and through this course, educators will learn how they can make this a possibility.

**LEARNER OUTCOMES:**

- 1) The participant will demonstrate an understanding of the Mentorship Platform and how it can be used to connect mentors and students.
- 2) The participant will demonstrate an understanding of the value of mentorship in fostering STEM education.
- 3) The participant will develop best practices for including mentorship opportunities into their lesson plans.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENT:**

- 1) Educators will sign up and create an account in the Mentorship Platform.
- 2) Educators will engage in mentorship activities via the STEM Action Center's Mentorship Platform in one of two ways:
  - a) Identify at least one student-led project that would benefit from mentorship support, assist student with registration into the Mentorship Platform, and monitor the progress of the project in the platform. (10 hrs)
  - b) Find at least two mentors in the Mentorship Platform or the community and set up visits with these mentors and a student group (either virtually or in person). (10 hrs)
- 3) Educators will create a lesson plan in which there is mentorship engagement. (3 hrs)
- 3) Educators will submit a final report via the Community Grants Portal (3 hrs) (<https://idahostem.force.com/gms/>) answering questions about their experience engaging with the mentorship platform, connecting mentors and students, and student experiences working with a mentor, highlighting best practices, lessons learned and ways they will engage with mentors moving forward.

**FINAL ASSIGNMENT DUE DATE:** April 1, 2019 by midnight MST via the Community Grants Portal.

**TRANSCRIPT DATE:** Spring 2019