



LEARNING IN ACTION



BRIGHT SPOT Pioneers in Idaho STEAM

Priest River Lamanna High School STEAMazing West Bonner County

There are a lot of “firsts” in West Bonner County School District these days: the founding of the first district-wide STEAM Club in Idaho, it is home of the first Idaho educator to be awarded Advocate for Society for Science & the Public, it boasts the first school-board approved STEM diploma for the district, and is the source of a flood of first-time participants and competition winners in the 2018 Idaho Science and Engineering Fair hosted by Idaho STEM Action Center at North Idaho College. These pioneering students and educators view Art as another fuel in their knowledge engine, resulting in STEAM, STEM with a little more power.

The West Bonner School District STEAM Club inspires students and teachers across the district, connecting each grade level at every school to STEAM learning opportunities. “These new opportunities have shown teachers how to go above and beyond for our young minds”, said Shannon Wilson, Science Teacher for Priest River Lamanna High School. Through STEAM Club outreach and events, Priest River Lamanna High School students develop their leadership skills and show the community how STEAM lessons and skills learned at school are applicable for careers later in life. The first STEAM Olympics gave students a chance to compete in STEAM trivia and hands-on challenges such as making lip balm, rocket-building and Ozobot coding. STEAM day, another STEAM Club-led event held at each district elementary school, rotates students through classes to work on everything from catapult designs and launches to bridge building, art pieces, rocket building and painting.

Idaho STEM Action Center program support and grant funding provided resources that helped this independent community springboard their ideas into action that has impacted the entire district. “The community is seeing Priest River as a town of innovation, a place where our children see the future and are inspired to make a difference in this world.”, says Wilson.

Businesses, community members, teachers, and students working together in support of STEAM Club events not only educates students, but provides them with a window into their career futures. Over 20 local businesses and organizations were represented at Career Day to provide speakers, demonstrations and funding support including the National Guard, Rotary Club, Roxy Movie Theater and Safeway.

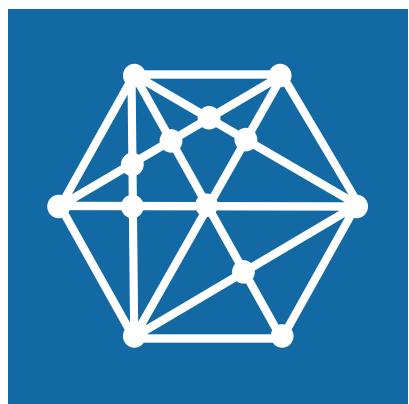
STEAM Club’s Career Day impacted 640 students with 74% of those surveyed saying that they are more aware of STEAM careers as a result. And 72% of students said they were going on to a college that offers STEAM programs. An estimated 16 of 20 fastest growing careers in Idaho require STEM skills. Priest River Lamanna High School students will be ready.



Photos provided by Mary Malone, Bonner County Daily Bee



STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. It's in these subjects that students learn the skills of critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration—skills that translate to success in many fields. The STEM Action Center is here to support this development and provide Idaho with the talent pipeline it needs for its economy to thrive. Idaho can generate a strong, STEM-competent and competitive workforce that will make us become a prime STEM business destination.



We build STEM through:

**EDUCATOR
ACCESS**
to STEM professional development
THROUGHOUT IDAHO

**17,000
EDUCATOR
INTERACTIONS**

WORKFORCE
development-focused partnerships with **INDUSTRY** and **UNIVERSITIES**

**8,000
STEM EDUCATION
INTERACTIONS**
through communities and businesses

Student
**STEM
Competitions**
and camp support

**500,000
STUDENT
INTERACTIONS**

Today's students will be tomorrow's workforce, and STEM AC has been created to develop the STEM-skilled talent that Idaho employers need.

INDUSTRY PARTNERS



TODAY'S EFFORTS. TOMORROW'S SUCCESSES.

Industry participation is essential for success, and we're here to help make that participation easier. We've created many ways for Idaho businesses to engage with STEM education. From mentoring and volunteering to donating and partnering, you can help move the economy forward by closing the gaps in Idaho's workforce. Let us help you help Idaho!

LEARN MORE

To learn more about the STEM Action Center's strategies, success stories, and positive impacts in your community, email: admin@stem.idaho.gov.



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