LEARNING IN ACTION

IDAHO STEM ACTION CENTER

BRIGHT SPOT
Learning Leaders

STEM Power in Payette

Students of all ages are experiencing the power of STEM in the community of Payette. It all started with library staff and a few educators sitting down at the table in the Payette Public Library with a few ideas that have since become a treasure trove of local STEM education resources.

Through a Rural STEM Engagement Grant funded by Idaho STEM Action Center, Payette Public Library hosted a two-day workshop in September 2018, attended by representatives from Payette School District, McCain Middle School, Payette Primary School, Westside Elementary, Payette County Extension Office, Washington County Extension Office, Payette Valley Food Connection, Boys and Girls Club, and 21st Century Kindergarten to create right-fit STEM education action plans for the participating organizations. The workshop featured hands-on learning activities and resources to inspire creativity and invention in students. Robotics, circuitry and innovating around existing materials in maker spaces were among the projects available.

The engagement grant to Payette Public Library, started with a few partner organizations and quickly grew to nearly all of the local education resources wishing to take part. New collaborations were born along with ideas on sharing STEM resources across organizations. Payette Library hopes to evolve into a resource hub where organizations can exchange successful project ideas and materials.

Idaho Power participated in the workshop planning process alongside Payette educators. An Idaho Power education specialist then supported the resulting implementation of STEM education activities in local classrooms with hands-on student workshops on LED power projects.

When asked to share one “rose”, or positive from the workshop, a 21st Century Kindergarten Director said “It’s not a rose, it’s a bouquet”. These inspired partners are now leading hands-on engineering projects, supporting high-school students 3-D printing competitions and hosting STEM Nights at Payette High School.

Payette, a quiet community, lies just 40 miles north of the ever-growing Treasure Valley, where many of Idaho’s 6,300 unfilled STEM jobs are found. Access to STEM education opportunities increase a student’s likelihood of pursuing a STEM-related profession. With Payette’s thriving collaborations and cultivation of opportunity for its next generation, these students will have the best of both worlds.

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

Idaho National Laboratory

Micron Foundation

Cable One

Dutch Bros Coffee

andeavor

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.

IDAHO STEM ACTION CENTER

IDAHO STEM ACTION CENTER
802 W. Bannock St., Suite 701
Boise, Idaho 83702
Phone: (208)-332-1729
www.stem.idaho.gov
facebook.com/IdahoSTEMAC
#IdahoSTEMAC