



MEDIA ALERT: May 2, 2019

STEM A.C. Foundation seeks \$10,000 on Idaho Gives Day

WHO The Idaho STEM Action Center Foundation was established in October 2017 to raise and distribute funds for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education opportunities in Idaho for teachers, students, and communities. The foundation offers a way for organizations and individuals to make tax-deductible donations to the STEM Action Center and enhance the investment the state has made to nurture the Idaho STEM community. It is one of more than 500 nonprofits joining forces with the Idaho Nonprofit Center to raise money and awareness for Gem State charities statewide during the sixth-annual event.

WHAT The STEM A.C. Foundation seeks to raise \$10,000 on Idaho Gives Day this year. Every \$14.37 it collects provides a new STEM learning interaction via STEM camps, STEM competitions, 21st-century learning materials, high-quality STEM instruction, and STEM professional mentorship. Reaching this goal will raise enough funds to support nearly 700 STEM engagements.

WHEN & Thursday May 2, 2019:

WHERE

- **Start Strong Breakfast** — 8-10 a.m. @ Even Stevens Sandwiches — STEM A.C. Foundation staff will attend the Idaho Nonprofit Center's Idaho Gives Day kickoff event at 815 W. Bannock St., Boise, ID 83702.
- **Change 4 Change** — 3-5 p.m. @ the Boise Co-op — The STEM A.C. Foundation is a featured beneficiary of the Co-Op program from April-June and will staff a booth there on Idaho Gives Day. It will host fun family STEM activities and award door prizes in addition to taking donations at the Co-Op at 888 W. Fort St., Boise, ID 83702. Change 4 Change collects money for three new nonprofits every three months by offering customers who bring in their own reusable shopping bags either 10¢ off their bill for each bag or the choice to donate the savings to one of the targeted recipient organizations.

WHY STEM knowledge and skills are important to the future of Idaho, because they're needed for critical and creative thinking, problem solving, innovation, and collaboration. Idaho is the fastest growing state in the nation and the state has the third-fastest job growth and the second fastest technology sector growth. Meanwhile, Idaho's unfilled STEM jobs leaped from 3,800 in 2016 to 6,300 in 2018, which represents nearly \$413 million in lost personal wages and more than \$22 million in lost state tax receipts. The Idaho Department of Labor predicts upwards of 100,000 STEM jobs will exist in Idaho by 2024. These jobs will represent \$6.5 billion in personal income and almost \$350 million in tax revenue if Idaho's workforce is prepared to fill them.

HOW The Idaho STEM Action Center was created in 2015 because Idaho citizens are not entering the STEM pipeline fast enough to meet current and future Idaho workforce needs. Its goals are to coordinate and facilitate implementation of science, technology, engineering, and math programs, align education and workforce needs, and increase awareness of STEM learning and careers throughout Idaho. The organization is working with industry, government, educators, and students to develop new resources and support high-quality teacher professional-development opportunities to foster a STEM-educated workforce that ensures Idaho's continued economic prosperity. Visit STEM.Idaho.gov for more information.

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