CONTACT:
Angela Hemingway, 208.332.1726, angela.hemingway@STEM.idaho.gov
Tony Harrison, 208.880.9814, tony@COMMposition.biz

<u>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</u>

Idaho STEM Action Center awards 170 grants worth $725K

BOISE, Idaho (Nov. 28, 2017) — The Idaho STEM Action Center has awarded 170 grants worth nearly three-quarters of a million dollars to schools, districts, libraries, out-of-school programs, and workforce-development training centers statewide to advance science, technology, engineering, and math education.

A total of $725,843.41 was awarded via three grant programs: Camp Grants, Computer Science Device Grants, and PK12 Innovative STEM Project Grants.

"STEM education is a central focus of my K-through-Career approach to preparing Idaho students for life beyond high school," Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter said. "Idaho educators and employers are working together closer than ever to ensure students are ready for the career opportunities of today and tomorrow. These grants help provide the tools they need to succeed."

Camp Grants will fund afterschool and summer STEM camps to boost knowledge in computer science and STEM concepts. The STEM Action Center received 51 applications representing $440,930.68 in requests and funded 18 submissions worth $154,302.68. A majority of the recipients are using a significant portion of the funds to support scholarships for populations underrepresented in STEM fields to attend the camps. Applicants were allowed to request up to $10,000 each.

Computer Science Device Grants will fund hardware devices primarily used for coding, such as tablets and laptop, desktop, and Raspberry Pi computers, the latter of which are tiny, affordable devices used primarily to teach basic computer science in schools. Students will use these devices to learn coding, software-development tools, and such languages as Java, C++, Python, and Scratch. The STEM Action Center received 84 applications representing $685,756.59 in requests and funded 39 submissions worth $316,458.93. Applicants were allowed to request up to $10,000 each.

PK12 Innovative STEM Project Grants will fund creative science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer-science programs that are hands-on or project-based. The STEM Action Center received 124 applications representing $278,838.48 and funded 113 submissions worth $255,081.80. Applicants were allowed to request up to $2,500 each.

STEM Action Center Executive Director Angela Hemingway said demand for the grants far surpassed available funds. "Total requests for these three grant programs exceeded $1.4 million," she said. "We had to decline 89 requests — one-third of applicants — who were

asking for nearly $670,000, which unfortunately means we're still unable to meet all the needs of Idaho's STEM community."

Hemingway said this underscores the need for the new Idaho STEM Action Center Foundation. Her agency created the nonprofit in October to offer organizations and individuals a way to make tax-deductible donations to the STEM Action Center and enhance the investment the state has made in the Idaho STEM community. The foundation is accepting donations.

"We could've funded five to six more grant requests this round if we'd had an additional twenty to thirty thousand dollars," she said. "Currently our funding for these three programs comes solely from state appropriations, but we're actively seeking partners who will help us ensure that we are meeting the needs of Idaho's entire STEM community."

Offering grants like these is critical to the state's continued economic prosperity, Hemingway said. She said Idaho's tech sector is the second fastest-growing in the nation at 6.3 percent, and 80 percent of all jobs will require technology skills within the next 20 years.

About the Idaho STEM Action Center
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 STEM programs, align education and workforce needs, and increase awareness of STEM 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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CAMP GRANT RECIPIENTS
Camp Grant recipients include Central Elementary School (Nampa), Discovery Center of Idaho (Boise), Eagle Hills Elementary School (Eagle), Garden Valley School District (Garden Valley), GetSetInc (Boise), Idaho Arts Charter School (Nampa), Idaho Museum of Natural History (Pocatello), Idaho Public TV (Boise), Madison Middle School (Rexburg), Moscow School District (Moscow), Meridian High School (Meridian), Museum of Idaho / Bonneville County Historical Society (Idaho Falls), Portneuf District Library (Chubbuck), Rich Stowell Consulting (McCall), Southside Elementary School (Cocolalla), Temple View Elementary School (Idaho Falls), and West Minico Middle School (Paul).

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEVICE GRANT RECIPIENTS
CS Device Grant recipients include American Falls School District (American Falls), Basin School District (Idaho City), Blackfoot Charter Community Learning Center (Blackfoot), Blaine County School District (Hailey), Borah High School (Boise), Buhl Middle School (Buhl), Butte County 4-H (Arco), Central Elementary School (Nampa School District (Nampa), Culdesac Schools (Culdesac), Filer Intermediate School (Filer), Fruitland High School (Fruitland), Genesee Joint School District (Genesee), Girl Scouts of Silver Sage Council (Boise), Gizmo-

CdA (Coeur d' Alene), Glenns Ferry Middle School (Glenns Ferry), Gooding Middle School (Gooding), Greensferry Elementary School (Post Falls), Idaho Falls High School (Idaho Falls), Idaho Hill Elementary School (Oldtown), Idaho Museum of Natural History (Pocatello), Idaho Technology Council (Boise), Kershaw Intermediate School (Sugar City), Kimberly Middle School (Kimberly), Lake Hazel Middle School (Boise), Lapwai Middle-High School (Lapwai), Lewiston Independent School District (Lewiston), Michelle Barnes (Priest Lake), Moscow Middle School (Moscow), Moscow School District (Moscow), Museum of Idaho / Bonneville County Historical Society (Idaho Falls), Pepper Ridge Elementary School, (Boise), Priest Lake Public Library (Priest Lake), Reuseum Educational Inc. (Garden City), Summit Elementary School (Jerome), Tigert Middle School (Soda Springs), University of Idaho Extension (Idaho Falls), Vallivue High School (Caldwell), Vallivue School District (Nampa), and West Bonner County School District (Priest River).

PK12 INNOVATIVE STEM PROJECT GRANT RECIPIENTS
PK12 grant recipients include 21st Century After School Program (Parma), Aberdeen Middle School (Aberdeen), Adams Elementary School (Boise), American Falls Academy (American Falls), American Heritage Charter School (Idaho Falls), Atlas Elementary School (Hayden Lake), Basin School District (Idaho City), Bear Lake School District (Montpelier), Betty Kiefer Elementary School (Rathdrum), Blackfoot Elementary School (Blackfoot), Blackfoot School District 55 (Blackfoot), Bliss School District (Bliss), Boise Urban Garden School (McCall), Buhl Middle School (Buhl), Cascade Public Library (Cascade), Cascade Rural Fire District (Cascade), Cascade Schools (Cascade), Cassia High School (Burley), Central Academy High School Alternative (Meridian), Central Elementary School (Nampa), City of Potlatch Afterschool Program (Potlatch), Clark Fork Junior-Senior High School (Clark Fork), Emmett Middle School (Emmett), Ernest Hemingway STEAM School (Ketchum), Falcon Ridge Charter School (Kuna), Frank Church High School Alternative (Boise), Fremont Joint School District 215 (Saint Anthony), Galileo STEM Academy (Eagle), Genesee Joint District (Genesee), Gizmo-CdA (Coeur d'Alene), Glenns Ferry Public Library (Glenns Ferry), Gooding Middle School (Gooding), Gooding Public Library (Gooding), Grangeville Centennial Library (Grangeville), Greensferry Elementary School (Post Falls), Greenspeed Research (Garden City), Hagerman Elementary School (Hagerman), Hagerman School District 233 (Hagerman), Harrison Elementary School (Harrison), Hemingway Elementary (Ketchum), Idaho Hill Elementary School (Oldtown), Idaho Public TV (Boise), Idaho Science and Technology Charter School Inc. (Blackfoot), Jefferson School District 251 (Menan), Jerome School District 261 (Jerome), John Brown Elementary School (Rathdrum), Joplin Elementary School (Boise), Juliaetta Elementary School Preschool (Juliaetta), Kamiah School District 304 (Kamiah), Kimberly Middle School (Kimberly), Kootenai Elementary School (Kootenai), Kuna High School (Kuna), Lake Hazel Middle School (Boise), Lake Pend Oreille School District (Ponderay), Lakeland School District 272 (Athol), Lakeside Junior-Senior High School (Plummer), Lewis and Clark Middle School (Meridian), Lewiston Independent District (Lewiston), Madison High School (Rexburg), Madison Junior High (Rexburg), Madison School District 321 (Rexburg), Marsing Joint District (Marsing), Marsing Middle School (Marsing), Morningside Elementary School (Twin Falls), Moscow School District (Moscow), Mountain View School District (Grangeville), Mountainview Alternative High School (Rathdrum), Mullan Trail Elementary School (Post Falls), Nezperce Elementary School (Nezperce), Nezperce Junior High School (Nezperce),

Northside Elementary School (Sandpoint), Oakley High School (Oakley), Orofino Junior Senior High School (Orofino), Palouse Prairie Educational Organization Inc. (Moscow), Patricia Romanko Public Library (Parma), Pocatello/Chubbuck School District 25 (Pocatello), Reuseum Educational Inc. (Garden City), Ridgevue High School (Nampa), Rigby Middle School (Rigby), Rolling Hills Public Charter School Inc. (Boise), Salmon School District 291 (Salmon), Sandpoint High School (Sandpoint), Silver Sage Elementary School (Boise), Snake River Elementary (Nampa), South Fremont Junior High (Saint Anthony), Southside Elementary School (Cocolalla), Sugar-Salem High School (Sugar City), Temple View Elementary School (Idaho Falls), Teton Elementary (Rigby), Teton High School (Driggs), Tigert Middle School (Soda Springs), Treasure Valley Math and Science Center (Boise), Twin Falls School District 411 (Twin Falls), Treasure Valley Education Partnership (Boise), University of Idaho Extension 4-H (Moscow), University of Idaho Master Gardener Program (Twin Falls), Valley Middle School (Hazelton), Valley View Elementary School (Bonners Ferry), Vallivue Middle School (Caldwell), The Village Charter School (Boise), Vision Charter School (Caldwell), West Ada School District (Meridian), West Middle School (Nampa), West Minico Middle School (Paul), and Wilson Elementary School (Caldwell)