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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Idaho Students Showcase Innovation at Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair

COLUMBUS, Ohio—May 20, 2025 – Last week, young innovators from Idaho joined nearly 1,700 of their peers from around the globe to compete at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), the world's largest pre-college science competition.

Three students from Idaho presented their original research projects, demonstrating the state's commitment to fostering the next generation of scientists and engineers. The students, Kathy Nie of Timberline High School in Boise, Alexander Wiseman of Renaissance High School in Meridian, and Benjamin Strock of Hillcrest High School in Ammon, showcased their work in Statics and Dynamics, Material Sciences, and Animal Sciences, respectively.

- Ms. Nie's project entitled "Energy Optimal Path Planning for Autonomous Underwater Vehicles" utilized simulations of both idealized and real-world data to develop methodologies for planning energy efficient paths for autonomous underwater vehicles.
- Mr. Wiseman's project entitled "The Effect of pH on Nb₂O₅ Nanoparticle Synthesis as a Negative Electrode for Lithium-Ion Batteries" investigated the implications of various alterations to the synthesis of niobium pentoxide for applications in lithium-ion battery performance.
- Mr. Strock's project investigated entitled "The Dangers of Combining Caffeine and Alcohol: Daphnia magna's Heart Rate Reaction to Caffeine and Ethanol Solutions" utilized the invertebrate Daphnia magna as a model for heart rate reactions to solutions popular in select beverages.

ISEF provides a global stage for these young scientists to share their passion for discovery, exchange ideas, and compete for prestigious awards and scholarships. Finalists are selected annually from a field of millions of students worldwide who compete in local and regional science fairs.



"We're so proud of these students for their hard work, dedication, and innovative spirit," said Dee Mooney, Administrator of Idaho STEM Action Center. "Their research demonstrates a standard of excellence that serves as an inspiration to all young Idaho scientists."

About Idaho STEM Action Center

Idaho STEM Action Center is an education and growth catalyst helping educators, businesses, families, and communities prepare the workforce of tomorrow. An incubator, connector, and advocate of STEM thinking and initiatives, the agency provides resources, support, and problem solving that spark innovation and offer paths to prosperity based on Idahoans' shared values of hard work, collaboration, self-determination, family, and community stability. Learn more at stem.idaho.gov and visit stem.idaho.gov/support-us/foundation to make a tax-deductible donation to its 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation to enhance the investment the state has made in Idaho's STEM community. Contributions provide greater access to STEM camps for children, student competitions, and many other life-shaping programs.

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