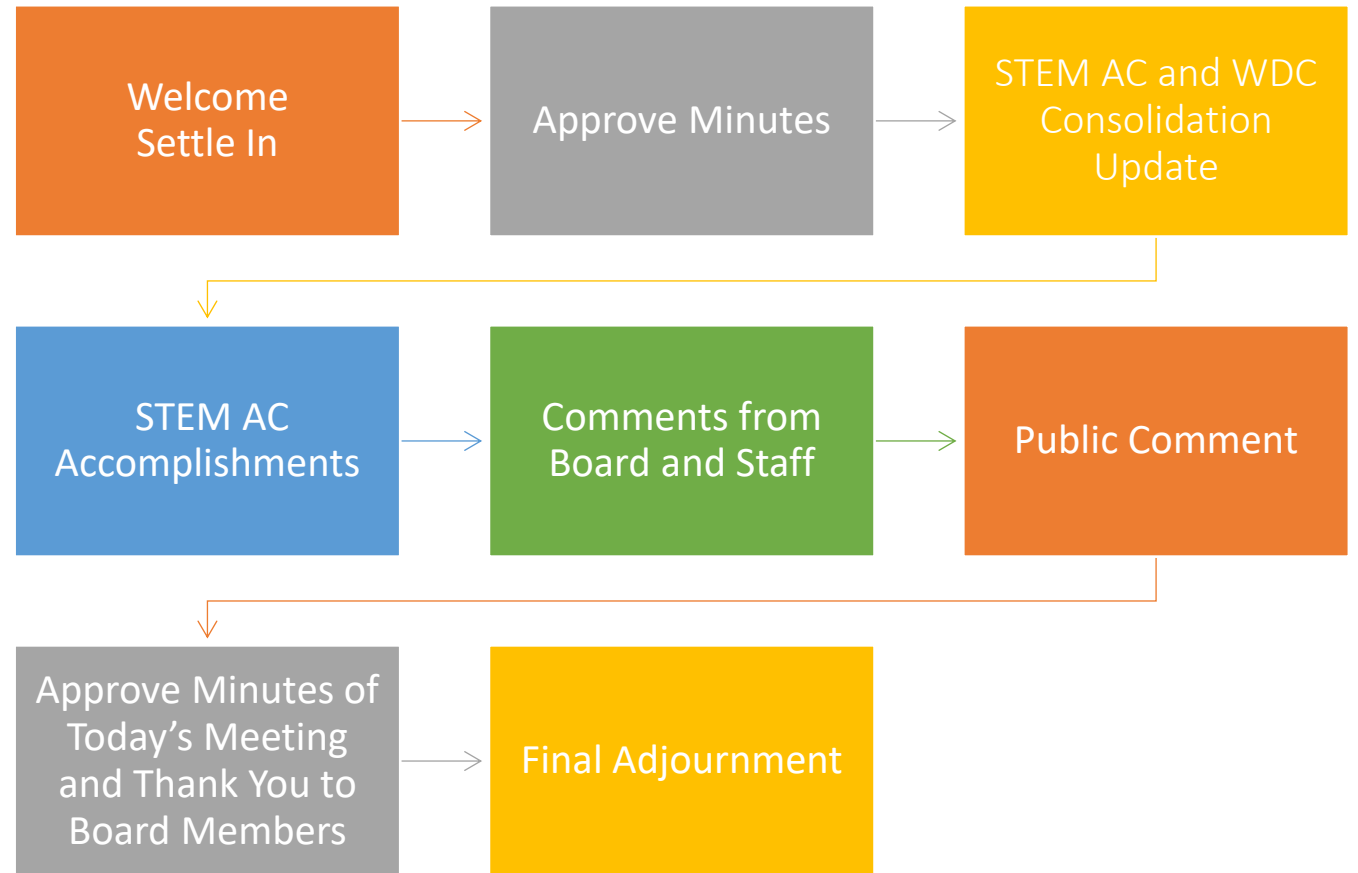


# Agenda



# Agenda

Welcome  
Settle In



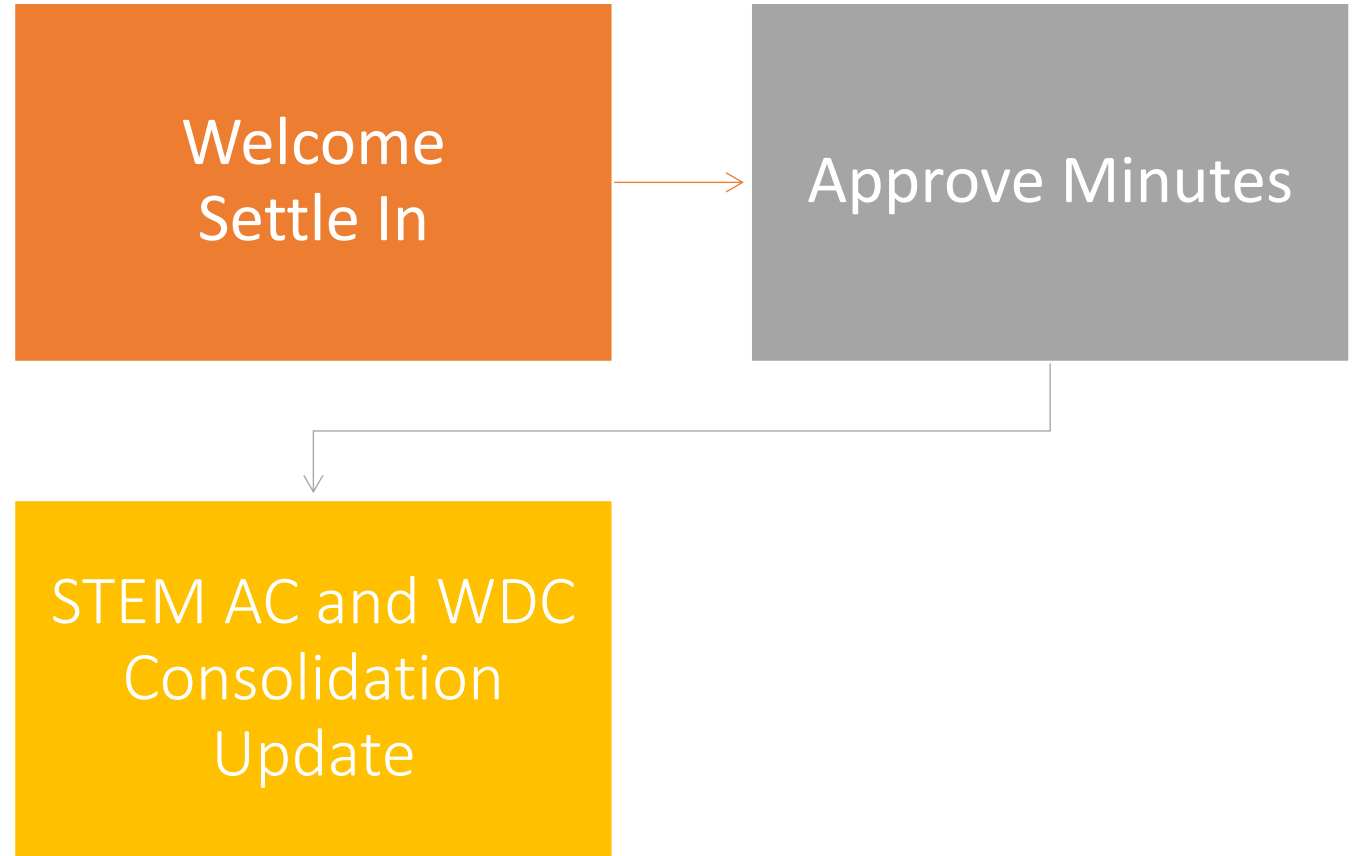
Approve  
Minutes

# February 18<sup>th</sup> Minutes

- Vote to approve



# Agenda



# STEM AC and WDC Consolidation Updates

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Legislation signed into law

Physical office space is complete and all employees will be at the Jefferson location

Communication acknowledging dissolution of STEM AC as agency on both websites and social media uptick begins late June and early July

Future STEM related grants will be handled by WDC's Outreach Committee

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

**RS32862C1 / H0761**

This legislation consolidates the Idaho STEM Action Center into the Idaho Workforce Development Council, integrating its functions, programs and staff to enhance the Council's existing purpose. This consolidation will streamline operations, reduce administrative overlap, and more closely align STEM education and outreach with Idaho's workforce development strategies.

## FISCAL NOTE

This fiscal note represents the net cost savings of integrating the Idaho STEM Action Center into the Idaho Workforce Development Council effective July 1, 2026. The STEM Action Center's budget submission includes a line item to eliminate all funding and positions associated with the Center, while the Workforce Development Council's budget submission includes a line item to add the appropriate FTP, PC, OE and TB. For FY26, the STEM Action Center was appropriated \$6,277,000 in General and Dedicated funds. Starting in FY27, the net effect of this action will permanently return 2.0 FTP, \$329,400 (inclusive of PC and OE) in General Funds and \$2,929,900 in Dedicated Fund Spending Authority.

## Contact:

Representative Josh Tanner  
Senator Dave Lent  
(208) 332-1000

*It's  
Official*

 IDAHO  
**WORKFORCE**  
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL + **STEM**



+



The Idaho STEM Action Center has expanded access to STEM education and helped prepare students for opportunities in STEM-related fields across the state for the last decade. As our State's workforce demands continue to evolve, strengthening the connection between education and career pathways has become increasingly important.

To support this growth, the Idaho STEM Action Center is integrating into the Idaho Workforce Development Council. Programs like i-STEM, Teacher Externship, STEM Grants, and STEM Outreach will continue. Partnerships will remain. The mission moves forward — now supported by the Workforce Development Council's unified statewide approach.

### Why This Matters:

- Building on a decade of proven success
- Expanding STEM's reach and impact statewide
- Supporting Idaho's employers and key industries
- Creating a clearer path from education to careers
- Strengthening coordination across Idaho's workforce system



**For questions or additional information, please contact:**

**Sherawn Reberry**  
Education & Careers Director,  
*Idaho Workforce Development Council*  
208.488.7564  
sherawn.reberry@wdc.idaho.gov

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Idaho STEM Action Center?

Founded in 2015, the Idaho STEM Action Center has worked to expand access to high-quality STEM education across the state. The organization brings together public education, employers, and community partners to help prepare a robust STEM-powered workforce that supports Idaho's economic future.

### What is the Idaho Workforce Development Council?

Established in 2017, the Idaho Workforce Development Council serves under the executive office of the Governor. The Council champions strategies that prepare Idahoans for careers that meet the needs of employers and communities across the state. Working with education leaders, industry partners, and state agencies, the Council helps guide Idaho's workforce strategy to ensure the state's economy continues to grow and thrive.

### Will the Idaho STEM Action Center close or go away?

The Idaho STEM Action Center will integrate into the Idaho Workforce Development Council as part of a coordinated statewide workforce strategy. While the organizational and operational structure is evolving, the work itself continues.

### Are STEM programs and initiatives going away?

No. Existing STEM programs and initiatives will continue. Programs and partnerships developed through the Idaho STEM Action Center remain an important part of Idaho's education-to-career pipeline. Through this integration, these initiatives will continue while benefiting from closer alignment with Idaho's statewide workforce strategy.

### Why is this integration happening now?

Over the past decade, the Idaho STEM Action Center has played an integral role in expanding STEM education and embedding these skills across Idaho's education and workforce efforts. As that work has become increasingly foundational to the state's workforce strategy, this integration represents a natural next step. Aligning STEM within the Workforce Development Council strengthens those efforts and helps ensure Idaho continues preparing students and workers for the careers its communities and industries need.

### When does this change go into effect?

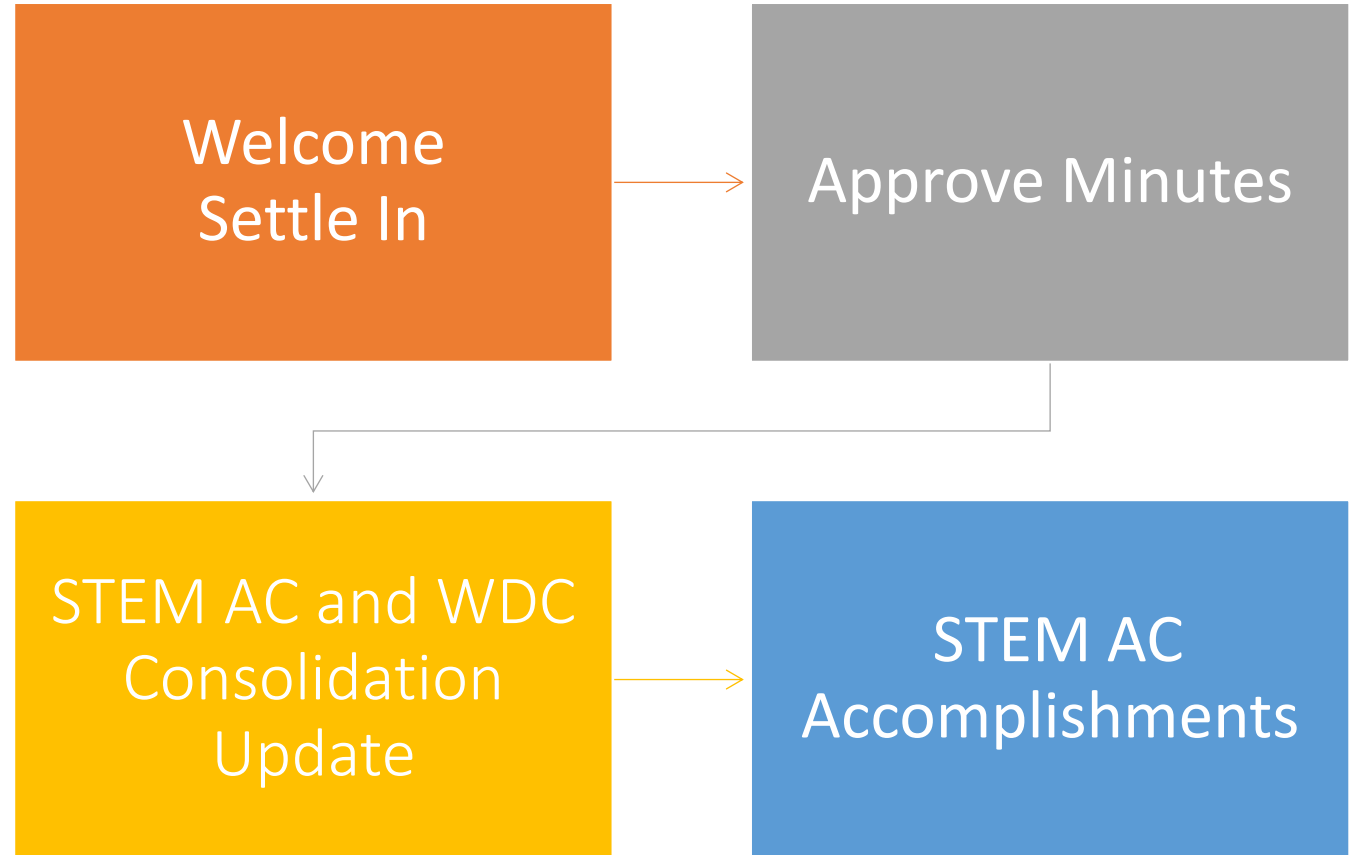
The integration process will begin immediately following legislative approval. The full transition is expected to be completed by July 1, 2026.

During this transition period, programs and services will continue without interruption while efforts are made to align communications, resources, and operations.

### Where can I find STEM resources or information?

Current resources and information will continue to be available on the Idaho STEM Action Center website at [stem.idaho.gov](http://stem.idaho.gov). As the integration takes effect between now and July 1, the website will be updated to reflect the Workforce Development Council's brand and structure. Access to programs, resources, and information will remain available during this transition.

# Agenda



# STEM AC and WDC Consolidation Updates

STEM Action Center Achievements	Workforce Development Council Achievements
<p><b>EDUCATION IMPACT</b> Considerably <u>expanded STEM-focused professional development</u> offerings with thousands of educator interactions through numerous opportunity types.</p>	<p><b>WORKFORCE BASED LEARNING</b> <u>Established WBL Continuum in partnership</u> with workforce and education entities. Led <u>Apprenticeship Idaho Coalition</u>; executed <u>Youth Apprenticeship Readiness Grant</u> serving 400+ Idaho youth.</p>
<p><b>SCHOOL INTEGRATION</b> Designated Idaho's <u>first four STEM schools</u> and created the <u>STEM Diploma</u> for rigorous STEM coursework completion.</p>	<p><b>EMPLOYER ALIGNMENT</b> <u>Implemented Talent Pipeline Management</u><sup>®</sup> statewide to meet current and future industry needs.</p>
<p><b>COMPUTER SCIENCE LEADERSHIP</b> Became <u>second state nationally recognized for strong CS policies</u>, requiring CS courses in all high schools.</p>	<p><b>GRANT SUPPORT</b> <u>Provided over \$150M in grants</u> for training and industry-wide workforce initiatives, including \$88M through Idaho LAUNCH and \$30M for childcare expansion.</p>
<p><b>STUDENT ENGAGEMENT</b> <u>Doubled STEM interactions to 400,000+</u> annually, building interest in STEM career pathways.</p>	<p><b>CROSS-SECTOR COORDINATION</b> <u>Facilitated collaboration</u> between government, nonprofits, and businesses to address workforce gaps.</p>
<p><b>TEACHER-INDUSTRY CONNECTION</b> <u>Implemented Externship Program</u> placing hundreds of educators in businesses to gain real-world workforce skills.</p>	<p><b>STRATEGIC PLANNING</b> Identified and <u>prioritized high-demand careers</u> requiring postsecondary skills to guide educational focus. <u>Elevated the dialogue and identified alternative education pathways</u> for Idaho's students to fill Idaho's most in-demand occupations.</p>

# STEM Connect Grants



STEM Connect Grant Recipients:

STEAM World

Butte County Joint District

University of Idaho McCall Outdoor Science School

Discovery Center of Idaho

Growing the STEM

College of Eastern Idaho

Challis Public Library

Wild Hearts Idaho

LPOSD 21st CCLC After School Program

West Ada Education Foundation

SFHS Drone Club

Children's Museum of the Magic Valley

Girl Scouts of Silver Sage

**Total organizations: 13**

**\$200,000+ Awarded**

# STEM Mini-Regional Grants Region 1& 2

Summary of Mini- Regional Grants:

## **Region 1:**

Idaho Hills Elementary: West Bonner County School District

Alpha + Robotics

Growing the STEM

Envirothon

Woodland Middle School Engineering Class

Bamboo Lab: Lakes Middle School

Invented Instruments: Lakes Middle School

Venture Academy

EVO Classroom Kit: CDA School District: Jasmine Hill

Gizmo CdA Scholarships

Total organizations:16

\$ 33,572.60

## **Region 2:**

Growing Wings, Opening Pathways

Science on Ice

Fun with STEM

GCL STEM

CWOC Handheld GPS Units

Clearwater Valley Elementary

# STEM Mini-Regional Grants Region 3

Summary of Mini- Regional Grants:

## **Region 3:**

ASM Materials Camp for Teachers: Boise State University

From Code to Creation: Middleton School District # 134

Museum Field Trips: Children's Museum of Idaho

Botball Robotic Learning Through Fun: West Ada School District #2

Homedale High School Robotics

Bookmobile Summer STEM Park Visits: Nampa Public Library

STEM Through the Lens: Payette School District # 371

Farm Ecosystems: Wilder School District #133

STEM Around the Bend Lab: Horseshoe Bend School District # 73

New Plymouth School District # 372

Trees Idaho

Podcasting at HMS: Homedale School District # 370

Victory Branch Library STEM Grant :Ada Community Library

STARBASE Advanced HS Program: DoD STARBASE Idaho

Quackens FTC Robotics Team

Project Impact STEM Academy

Outdoor Science, Astronomy, andTechnology Exploration: Girl Scouts of Silver Sage

STEM for Early Learning: Caldwell School District 132

Total organizations:18

\$ 42,358.64

# STEM Mini-Regional Grants Region 4-6

## Summary of Mini- Regional Grants:

### **Region 4:**

Shoshone Robotics Program: Shoshone School District 312  
Boys and Girls Club of Magic Valley- Rupert  
Gooding Public Library Summer 2026 STEM  
Shoshone Public Library  
Burley Public Library Teen Makerspace  
Jerome Middle School: Jerome School District 261  
Trailer Circuits STEM Kit: Bliss School District 234  
Murtaugh STEM Lab Expansion: Murtaugh School District 418  
Digital Science, Field Exploration, and Troop STEM Support: Girl Scouts of Silver Sage  
Enhancing STEM at West Minico: Minidoka County School District 331

### **Region 5:**

Haywire FRC 1569: Pocatello/Chubbuck School District 25  
Mission to the Moon: Bear Lake School District 33  
STEM Trailers: Oneida County Library  
Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeast Idaho  
STEM at South Bannock Library District  
North Gem Elementary: North Gem School District 149  
West Side School District 202  
American Falls Joint School District 381  
Glen Allen Project: Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeast Idaho  
Environmental Science Exploration and Troop STEM Support: Girl Scouts of Silver Sage

### **Region 6:**

Ammoknights Robotics/Rocky Mountain Robotics Coalition  
Challis Public Library  
Farnsworth Middle School: Jefferson School District 251  
FernWaters Charter School  
STEAM World  
United Way of Idaho Falls and Bonneville County  
2026 STEM Industry Symposium: College of Eastern Idaho  
Idaho Science and Technology Charter School  
Teton School District 401

Total organizations: 29

\$64,271.00

# Idaho Digital Literacy 2-Day Workshop

## Grades 9-12th

### Supporting Educators for the New Graduation Requirement

Registration is currently open.

- **22 Idaho Educators Registered to Attend**

### Graduation Requirement Support

- Equipping 9–12 educators with resources and strategies to meet the new graduation requirement
- Supporting implementation through relevant, career-connected STEM learning experiences
- Strengthening classroom instruction aligned to Idaho workforce pathways and student readiness
- Building educator confidence in preparing students for future education and career opportunities

**A statewide effort to support educators, strengthen instruction, and prepare future-ready graduates.**

### Program Snapshot

#### Registered Participants

Registration is currently open.

**22**

#### Coeur d'Alene

**7**

#### Idaho Falls

**6**

#### Boise

**9**

#### Reach

**3** Locations

**17** unique districts/organizations represented

**2,000–3,500** Idaho Students:  
Estimated Student Reach from  
Current Enrollment

# I-STEM Summer Institute

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## Statewide Reach and Educator Engagement

- **515 Idaho Educators Registered to Attend**
- *Representing formal and informal education across the state*
- **57 Instructors and Assistants Leading Learning**
- *Supporting delivery across the I-STEM Summer Institute*

## Institute Impact

- Advancing career connected learning through real world STEM experiences
- Learning strands aligned to Idaho's in demand careers and workforce pathways
- Industry partner engagement connecting education to workforce needs
- Strengthening STEM teaching, learning, and student career readiness across Idaho

**A statewide investment in STEM education, workforce alignment, and future ready learners**

## Program Snapshot

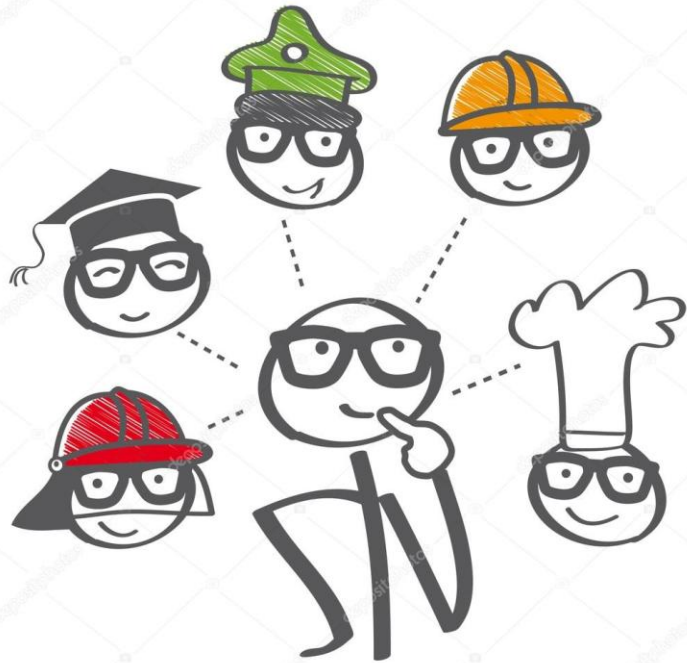
**Registered Participants**      **515**

**Instructors and Assistants**      **57**

**Educator Audience**      **Formal and Informal Idaho Educators**

**Reach**      **6 Locations Statewide**

**35,000 Students Impacted**



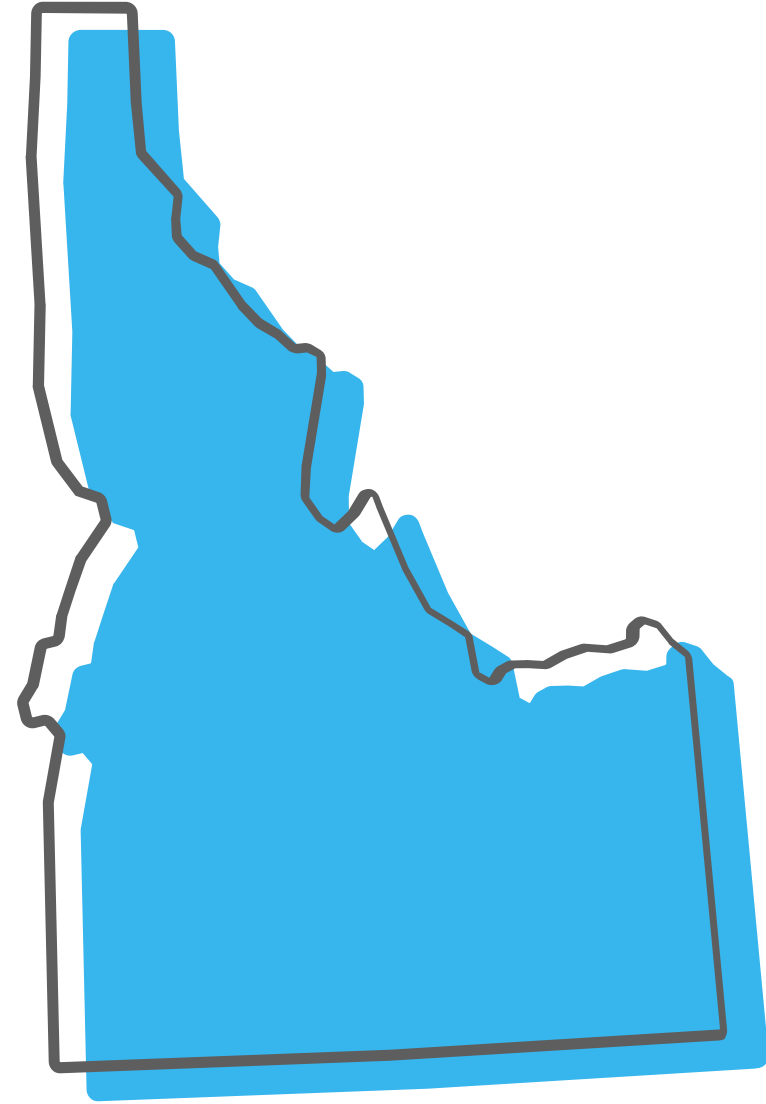
Advancing STEM & CS Education across Idaho

Strengthening the education to career pipeline

Keeping students at the center of this work

# VISION

“A student-centered education system that creates opportunities for all Idahoans to improve their quality of life.”



# The New Chapter



## VISION

We envision a future where Idaho's diverse and prepared workforce meets the needs of our unique communities and employers.

## MISSION

We champion strategies that prepare Idahoans for careers that meet employers' needs.

## GOALS: *Draft*

*Goal 1:* Increase public awareness of and access to career education and training opportunities. *Draft*

*Goal 2:* Improve the effectiveness, quality, and coordination of programs and services designed to maintain a highly skilled workforce. *Draft*

*Goal 3:* Provide for the most efficient use of federal, state, and local workforce development resources. *Draft*

## Education & Careers

What-We-Do

### Focus Area

Career Readiness

Educator Support

Student Engagement

Innovation Funding

### Programs

LAUNCH, STEM Diploma, Outreach

I-STEM, Externships, Digital Literacy

Science Fair, AI/CS Week, Project Based Learning

Grant Initiatives



# Education & Careers

## Top 10 Programs You Need to Know About

- 1 LAUNCH** (Ongoing)  
A career pathway and grant program connecting Idaho students to in-demand careers and training.


- 2 I-STEM** (Summer | Registration Spring)  
Interactive STEM training for educators with ready to use lessons, classroom kits, and PD credit.


- 3 Idaho Science & Engineering Fairs** (Fall to Spring)  
Student led research experiences that build innovation, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.


- 4 Grant Initiatives** (Fall & Spring)  
Funding opportunities that support career-connected innovation through classroom and community based projects.
- 5 Teacher Externships** (Summer)  
Real world industry experiences for educators to bring career connections into the classroom.
- 6 Computer Science Week & Hour of AI** (Fall)  
Engaging AI learning experiences designed for easy classroom and program integration.
- 7 Digital Literacy Trainings** (Ongoing)  
Practical, classroom-ready training to support Idaho's digital literacy requirement.
- 8 STEM Diploma** (Spring)  
Recognizes students completing rigorous STEM pathways.
- 9 Project-Based Learning (PBL)** (Year Round)  
Supports educators in designing real world, career connected learning experiences.
- 10 STEM & Career Outreach** (Year Round)  
Connect with us at outreach events that support STEM and college & career readiness.

### Free Featured Resources

**Next Steps Idaho**  
Your go to hub for career exploration, scholarships, and planning tools.

**Idaho EcosySTEM**  
A statewide network that engages partners to foster transformative STEM learning experiences and expand career pathways in every Idaho community.

**Learning Blade**  
Career-connected STEM lessons ready for classroom use.

**Engineering by Design**  
Project based engineering curriculum for K through 12 students.

### Conferences

**Idaho STEM Conference**  
July 29–31, 2026 | Twin Falls  
A statewide gathering focused on innovative STEM teaching and collaboration.

**Waypoint Conference**  
October 5–7, 2026 | Boise  
A statewide convening for advisors to strengthen pathways and align education with workforce needs.

**IETA Conference**  
February 3–5, 2027 | Boise  
Hands on sessions focused on technology integration in education.

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**



**STEM Advisory Board:**  
*Board will dissolve in June 2026, three members moving to WDC Outreach Committee to contribute toward committee's mission*

**Idaho STEM Action Center Advisory Board**



Jennifer Jackson, Board Chair / Program Manager, Idaho National Laboratory

Ed Atienza, Vice Chair / Research and Development Engineering Manager, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories

Jake Reynolds, Business Development and Operations Admin, Idaho Department of Commerce

Steve Christiansen, Vice President of Human Resources & Organizational Development, Idaho Milk Products



Bryan Klein, Senior Partner Manager, In Time Tec



Erin Simms, SVP, Chief Talent & People Officer for St. Luke's Health System

Jani Revier, Director of the Idaho Department of Labor

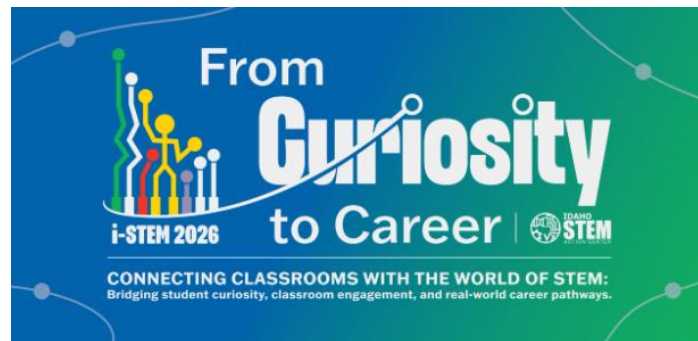
# Thank You

Worked to ensure every Idaho student could access STEM opportunities

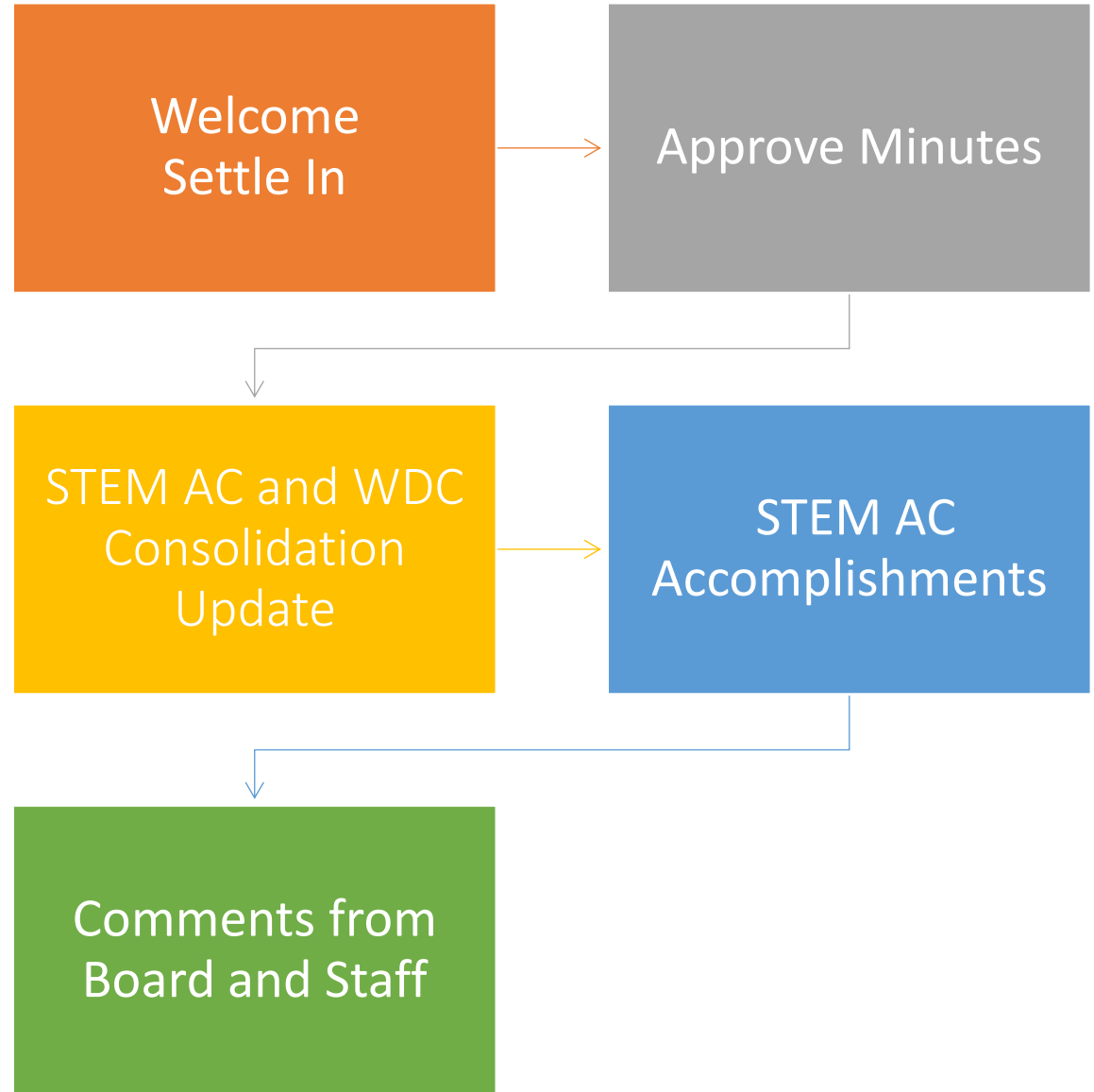
Equipped educators statewide with real-world STEM teaching tools – i-STEM still going after 20 years!

Supported students through scholarships and pathways

Fostered industry and education partnerships



# Agenda





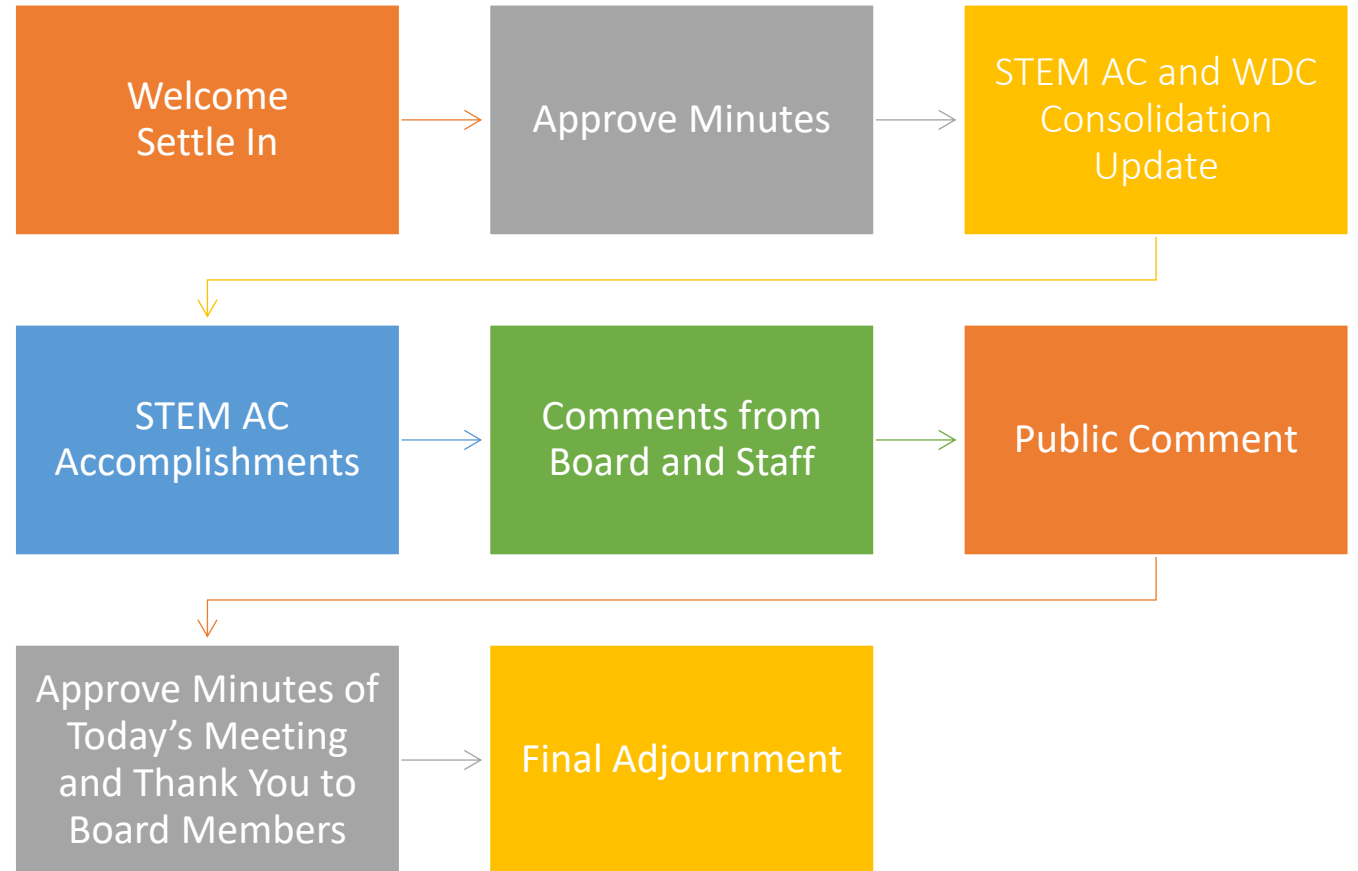
Board Members & Staff Comment



# Public Comment

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# Agenda





**IDAHO**  
**STEM**  
ACTION CENTER