



PK12 INNOVATIVE STEM GRANT



**IDAHO
STEM**
ACTION CENTER



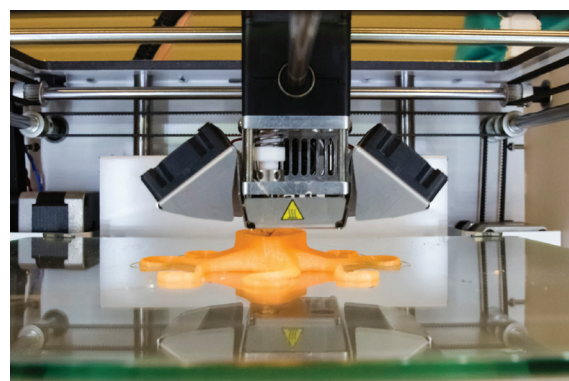
BRIGHT SPOT MULTIMEDIA and STEM LAB

PATRICIA ROMANKO PUBLIC LIBRARY ENVISIONING A STEM FUTURE

The Patricia Romanko Public Library has made progress for STEM here in Idaho—they've turned their vault into a lab! It houses a multitude of STEM educational tools such as 3D printers, digital media, Raspberry Pi computers, Edison robots, Snap Circuits, and much more! Aptly called the ENVISIONS STEM Lab, this space provides students with much-needed experience in innovation through coding, engineering, robotics, and electronics.

Housed in a modest library in a rural town, this STEM lab's value has far-reaching implications that extend well beyond its four walls in Parma. One of the major barriers that has held Idaho back from tapping into our STEM potential is STEM education's limited outreach to underrepresented populations—especially those in rural areas. With grant funding provided through Idaho's STEM AC, the Romanko Library has broken this barrier and built a model for what Idaho's STEM evolution looks like. This idea-turned-reality is proof of the mechanics: Promoting STEM education prepares Idahoans to be strong contenders in the STEM work force. *Ingenuity and investment power valuable STEM creations like this lab, and with the help of industry supporters, we can build so much more.*

It's a bright future ahead! Director Rasmussen of the Romanko Library proudly reports the success of their new STEM lab and the events they host: "Our Family STEM activity generated not only a lot of interest and learning on the actual night, it has also created additional motivation for continued activity in STEM projects." This is it, folks! This is the momentum we need to drive Idaho forward with STEM, and it's time to put Idaho on the grid with many more brilliant projects like this one.



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. With our best efforts, Idaho can generate a strong, competent, and competitive workforce that will help us become a prime STEM business destination.



BETTER STEM MEANS A BETTER IDAHO: WHY STEM MATTERS TO OUR ECONOMY

Did you know?...

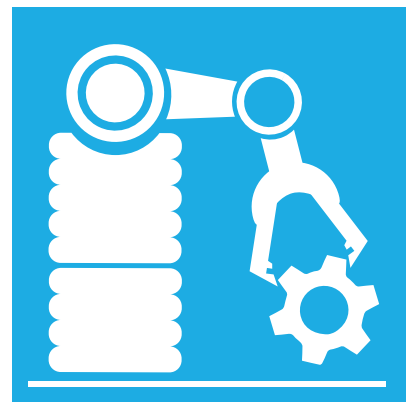
- In 2017, Idahoans failed to recognize \$420 million in personal income due to the over 7,000 STEM jobs which went unfilled.
- STEM jobs are growing in Idaho! Idaho Department of Labor predicts:
 - 23% growth by 2024;
 - ~36,000 STEM job openings in Idaho by 2024.
- Idaho STEM workers earn double non-STEM workers at a median wage of ~\$29/hour.
- 16 of the 20 fastest growing jobs in Idaho require STEM skills.

Today's students will be tomorrow's workforce, and STEM Action Center has been created to develop the STEM-skilled talent that Idaho employers need. STEM education is the key to securing Idaho's economy—today and in the generations ahead.

“Interest in STEM in our community is high”, reports Glenys Rasmussen of the Romanko Library and new STEM Lab, “and young people have such a talent and interest in STEM and media creations. As the program grows, we expect to have the additional support of education leaders, corporate leaders, and others who have the ability to teach and expand the STEM-related programs.” Ultimately, their vision is “to instill in young people initiative, desire, and the skill-sets to explore the wonders around them, and to also give youth (especially our underserved population) motivation to accelerate and exceed their own self-imposed limitations.”



INDUSTRY PARTNERS



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, visit our interactive map at stem.idaho.gov/impact or email: admin@stem.idaho.gov.



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