Bright Spot 2023

Career Connected Education for Tomorrow's Workforce in Idaho



i-STEM Innovates

3D Design and Fabrication Workshop to Imaginative Student Creations









i-STEM Summer Institutes provide high quality, in-depth professional development to Idaho educators. In June 2022, the four-day institutes with workshops and general sessions were held in five locations throughout the state. STEM AC partnered with College of Southern Idaho, Idaho State University, Lewis-Clark State College, College of Eastern Idaho, and College of Western Idaho to host the institutes. Educators return to their teaching environment and classrooms with relevant, hands-on teaching materials to enhance STEM learning opportunities for their students.

Buhl educator Kelsey Margulieux took part in the IDX: Engineering Solutions with 3D Design and Fabrication strand at the i-STEM Summer Institute held at College of Western Idaho. This strand gives educators skills to take 3D fabrication back to their schools and a 3D printer for student use. Kelsey returned to Buhl with her new printer which was then the only printer available for student use. The workshop not only taught 3D fabrication, but also how to troubleshoot 3D printers. Using this knowledge, the older 3D printers at Buhl Middle School are now up and running and available to middle school students for "Fun Friday" activities.

Kelsey learned how easy it is to design objects in TinkerCAD. Kelsey contacted teachers in the elementary school, offering training sessions on how to troubleshoot 3D printers and is now teaching classes on how to use the TinkerCAD software. The elementary teachers were excited by the possibilities of 3D fabrication and began incorporating 3D printing activities into their curriculum, expanding opportunities for both educators and students, reinforcing the importance of vertical alignment in education for the students of Buhl School District.

"3D printing is an easy and accessible way to introduce kids to STEM with hands on experiences as well as watching their creations come to life! We believe that early exposure to STEM opens a new world of opportunities that would benefit children and young adults in our community," Kelsey said.



STEM is about engaging with the world through creativity, collaboration, and innovation.

And STEM skills give Idahoans a competitive edge in the workplace; preparing them for high-paying, high-demand careers in agriculture, healthcare, computer science, and more.

STEM...Helping build a prosperous Idaho!











Idaho STEM Action Center advances innovative opportunities for educators, students, communities, and industry to build a competitive Idaho workforce and economy through STEM and computer science education.



Building STEM through:

EDUCATOR ACCESS

to STEM professional development throughout Idaho.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

focused partnerships with industry and universities. STUDENT STEM COMPETITIONS

and camp support.

Our Partners















STEM IS EVERYWHERE AND FOR EVERYONE!

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Your participation is essential for Idaho's success! There are many ways for you to engage with STEM education. Mentor. Volunteer. Donate. Partner. Help us build a path to prosperity for all Idahoans.

LEARN MORE

To learn more about the STEM Action Center's strategies, success stories, and positive impacts in your community, email: admin@stem.idaho.gov or visit stem.idaho.gov.



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