



Industry's Excellent Educators

Dedicated to STEM – INDEEDS

Syringa Middle School, Caldwell, Idaho



Each year Idaho STEM Action Center honors two outstanding Idaho educators who champion science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and connect students to industry leaders to mentor projects and provide invaluable career guidance. INDEEDS awards are given out at the Idaho Technology Council's Hall of Fame Gala.

Kristy Rudan, science and English language arts teacher at Syringa Middle School in Caldwell, was the Industry's Excellent Educators Dedicated to TEM (INDEEDS) Award winner in the K-6 grade category. This is her second year at Syringa and her 14th year teaching. Award winners are peer-nominated and industry-selected. Leaders from Vynyl, Micron, Idaho National Laboratory, Idaho Power, Discovery Center of Idaho and Trailhead supported this years' awards.

3D PRINTING CLUB AND CAMPS IGNITE STUDENT PASSION FOR STEM

In addition to her classroom teaching, Kristy hosts an after-school 3D printing club and stages 3D printing summer camps. Kristy's all-girls team won first place at the Idaho Exhibition of Ideas (IDX) western Idaho competition held in March in Boise. With six weeks to prepare for the competition, the team researched life in space for astronauts, the competition theme, designing a toothbrush, sourcing materials, and going through 16 design prototypes to perfect their toothbrush. Because of their success, the girls are signing up for science camps, science trips and planning to sign up for STEM classes in high school.

In Rudan's 3D printing camps, no interested students were left out. Rudan trained an aide to assist students with troubleshooting software and 3D printers, allowing more students to participate in the camps. One of her goals was to spark excitement to encourage female students to attend. She had 45% female attendees as well as 53% English Language Learners attending.

The camps also included sessions with tailored activities for Special Education students, giving them supportive feedback and the time needed to successfully complete projects. One of these students by the fourth day of the camp was making precisely measured modifications to his balloon-powered car design within a matter of minutes and was the first to complete his 3D project.



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!





STEM IS FOR EVERYONE

Possessing an endorsement in English for Speakers of Other Languages with specialized training in mathematics, Kristy is passionate about bringing unique, language-rich, hands-on educational opportunities to underserved populations. "So many careers are STEM related, and for kids to be exposed to that at a young age and to develop the critical thinking skills that go along with STEM learning opens a lot of career opportunities for them," Rudan said. "A lot of those careers don't even exist yet, so it's exciting to teach them the skills they'll need to move into the future. And the most exciting part is knowing there are a lot of kids from diverse backgrounds who are having the opportunity to learn 3D printing and the engineering and design process. It's neat that diversity is being acknowledged and there are a lot of teachers who are bringing STEM into their classrooms for students of all abilities and all languages and all backgrounds."

STEM learning is important for future careers that are as varied as scientists, programmers, and construction. STEM skills will allow students to adapt to rapidly changing work environments of the future.

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.



802 W. Bannock St., Suite 900
Boise, Idaho 83702
Phone: (208) 332-1729

W stem.idaho.gov

f [IdahoSTEMAC](https://www.facebook.com/IdahoSTEMAC)

@ [idahostemac](https://www.instagram.com/idahostemac)

t [IdahoSTEMAC](https://twitter.com/IdahoSTEMAC)