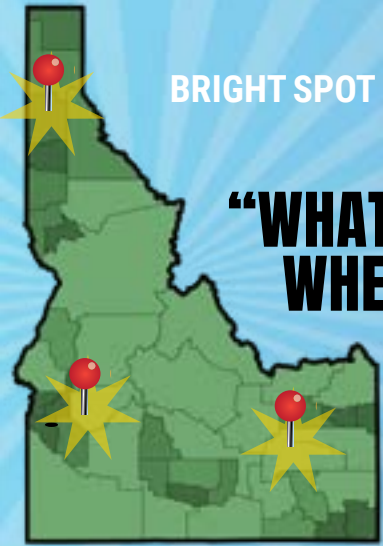


BRIGHT SPOT

“WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?”



CITY INFRASTRUCTURE FOCUS OF NEW BOOK

Many first graders might stand solidly on the firefighter or garbage-truck driver career path, as they are often the more visible community services in our towns and cities. The Association of Idaho Cities (AIC) is working to bring greater understanding of the workings of communities to students across Idaho so students may see themselves as part of their own city's future.

Idaho STEM Action Center (STEM AC) partnered with the Association of Idaho Cities, through STEM AC's Public-Private-Partnership program to provide greater access to AIC's new Readers Becoming Leaders program. INL, Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health, J-U-B, and Western States CAT Rental were among partners who made Readers Becoming Leaders possible with events planned for thirty cities statewide.

Readers Becoming Leaders is designed to connect city leaders to elementary students to build, connect, and create a sense of belonging. The program introduces students to local examples of civic leadership and the workings of the city in which they live. The program's FRIENDS City book is read to third graders by a mayor, council member, or senior staff. All 199 incorporated cities in Idaho are included in the graphic publication. Students work through exercises in a companion activity book to build a city, identify resident needs, and address problems with the resources available. In addition to promoting leadership skills and civic awareness, the book promotes STEM learning, literacy, and creative problem-solving in an interactive storytelling environment.



STEM is about *more* than Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. It's 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!





EVENTS BRING CITY MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES TO SCHOOLS

Public works employees were in the spotlight at Pocatello, Emmett, and Coeur d'Alene events, where employees visited schools, shared information on the kinds of STEM knowledge needed for their jobs and demonstrated how equipment works to keep storm and sewer drains clear. GIS mapping was presented to help students understand how engineering is used for water systems planning and repair. "They put glass beads in the paint!" exclaimed a Pocatello third grader, seeing where chemistry and road maintenance intersect. Students were abuzz with their new awareness of the many ways they might make a difference in their communities one day.

"We need you right here in Idaho, and your ideas matter, is the message we are bringing to students", according to Association of Idaho Cities program manager, Miche Kirkman. Student understanding of public works, city government, emergency services, planning, and additional community services increases awareness for career opportunities that exist in their home cities and serves to sustain communities across generations.

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. Association of Idaho Cities' novel program enhances student understanding of how cities work and shows opportunities for using STEM knowledge in all communities.

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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