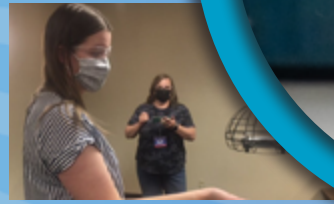
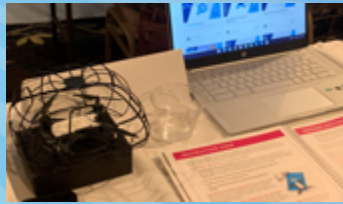
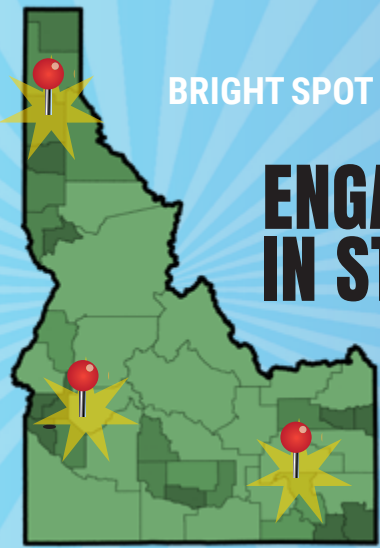


BRIGHT SPOT

ENGAGING KIDS IN STEM

EDUCATION THROUGH DRONES



EDUCATORS RECEIVE ADVANCED DRONE TRAINING

In summer 2021, forty educators representing thirty schools participated in an advanced drone training at three locations in Idaho (Boise, Coeur d'Alene, and Pocatello). The *Drone Designers + Coding with Drones* program is a partnership between STEM AC and PCS Edventures!™, an Idaho-based company with expertise in hands-on STEM education. A grant from the AT&T Foundation funded participants from Title I schools.

The goal of Drone Designers is for students to gain theoretical and practical knowledge related to computational thinking and digital literacy, to connect learning with drone technology applications, and build interest in and excitement for career opportunities related to coding and drones. The program structure emphasizes career exploration and disciplinary literacy as students follow the engineering design process according to real-life production team members specializing in drone performance systems.

During the training, educators serving youth in grades 4 through 8 were equipped with a hands-on introduction to the Drone Designers curriculum, the support to integrate the coding resources into their existing programs, print and digital curriculum resources, a one-year site license to *DroneBlocks* (providing access to a library of digital coding resources on block coding, Python, and JavaScript that range from beginner levels to advanced users), and all drone supplies and materials.

Classroom educators who received training in the workshop will guide students through the hands-on Drone Designers, with each participating classroom and after-school program receiving print and digital curriculum resources plus drone supplies and materials for up to 30 students.



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!





DRONE TECHNOLOGY PREPARES STUDENTS FOR FUTURE CAREERS

In Idaho, students are using drone technology to evaluate movement in sports, create land mapping and surveying, record videos for school news networks, and monitor crop fertility on their family farms. In rural Orofino, award-winning high school educator Tim Gering is teaching his students to use drones - creating opportunities for career paths within the Forest Service, Idaho Fish and Game, law enforcement, firefighting, and agriculture.

And drones are accessible to all students! After taking the training, Tom Jackson from the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind learned to run the drones from braille devices, enabling him to teach visually-impaired students to fly them using accessible code. Sharlyn Jackson, his wife and another educator who took the drones training commented, "The drones have been a big hit!"

Drone technology has become vital to various business, technology, arts and entertainment, and government organizations in Idaho. The 2021 *Drone Designers + Coding with Drones* program is making it possible to put the fastest-growing technology into the hands of over 3,000 Idaho students.

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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