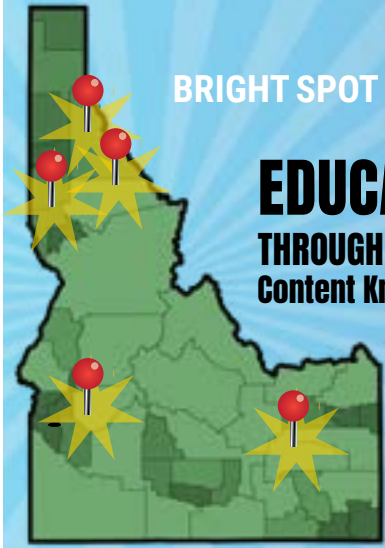


BRIGHT SPOT

EDUCATORS GROW THROUGH I-STEM SUMMER INSTITUTES: Content Knowledge and Partnerships Flourish



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTES HELD VIRTUALLY IN 2021

Sponsored by Idaho STEM Action Center and the Superintendent of Public Instruction's office, i-STEM Summer Institutes were live streamed from six locations in Idaho over two weeks in June 2021. STEM AC partnered with College of Southern Idaho, Idaho State University, Lewis-Clark State College, College of Eastern Idaho, College of Western Idaho, and North Idaho College to host workshop leaders while participants attended virtually.

Classroom kits were sent to the 279 educators in advance of the 3-day training. Industry sponsors included Micron, Idaho National Laboratory, Idaho Power, Intermountain Gas Company, Idaho Central Credit Union, PCS Edventures!, Bayer Fund, Rocky Mountain Power Foundation, Power Foundation, Perpetua Resources, New Fields, as well as Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

The theme of i-STEM 2021 was "STEMPower Your Partnerships." Workshops ranged from "Cracking the Code: Computer Science for K-2 & Beyond," "Game Design & Virtual Reality in the Classroom with Blocksmith," "Paper Circuits and Energy FUNK," and "Using STREAMpower to Explore Outer Space" to "Wildlife Conservation in Your Backyard," "Cultivating Citizen Scientists in Elementary Grades," and "Teaching Mathematics Through Gaming." In addition to workshops, educators attended general sessions including a region-specific "STEMPower Your Partnerships" Panel with local industry leaders, "Video Making and Recording in the Classroom", "Digital Citizenship in STEM", "Partnership Asset Mapping Workshop", and a breakout session with discussion topics including family engagement, future of work, career exploration, school-library partnerships, and inquiry-based learning.



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!





STEM IS EVERYWHERE AND FOR EVERYONE!



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSPIRES EDUCATORS

"Having these sessions in the summer is wonderful. Receiving the materials to put it all into practice is priceless. It gives so many people working with others a chance to get together to learn and share new ideas. Taking those fresh ideas with new excitement back to the classroom is very rewarding for everyone."

"This was a great conference. After this crazy and exhausting year, I really needed to be reminded about how awesome my job is and why I love teaching science. I feel refreshed and reinvigorated and am so excited to get back in my classroom and try out my new tools. Thank you for that new and exciting feeling!"

"I have learned far more than I can ever hope to implement in a year, so I am excited to share my excitement with my students!...I teach Computers/Computer Science. But I also realize that there is a place for writers, artists, gardeners, veterinarians, etc. Computer Science touches every one of these fields, so my hope is that for some students, they will love Computers, Computer Science, or coding just for the sake of these fields of study. But for ALL students, I hope they can find something they enjoy and understand Computer Science skills are needed and will just enhance their ability to enjoy and be successful at whatever they choose to pursue in life."

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. Access to consistent, high-quality STEM education will ensure that Idaho's workforce has the necessary skills to be prepared for the jobs of the future.

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.

Building STEM through:

EDUCATOR ACCESS

to STEM professional development throughout Idaho.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

focused partnerships with industry and universities.

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