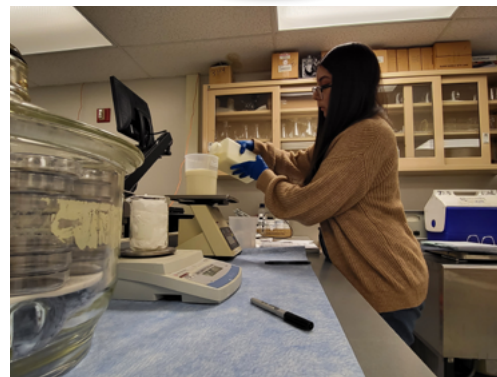
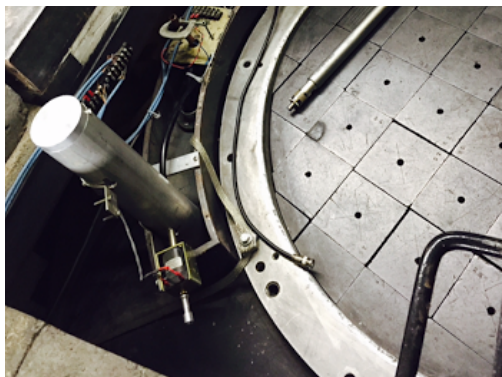
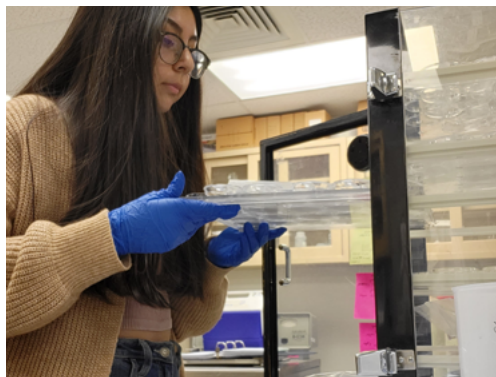




## Hispanic Healthcare and Technology Conference Opens Career Pathways to Engineering

Caldwell, Idaho



For the last eight years, over 300 students each year are introduced to health and technology career pathways, mentorship, and support at the Annual Hispanic Healthcare and Technology Careers Conference. Organized by Future Hispanic Leaders of America (FHLA) and sponsored by Idaho STEM Action Center, the conference provides opportunities for participants to learn about careers in health and technology and connects students with role models and career mentors.

Berenice Sosa Aispuro credits the Hispanic Healthcare and Technology Conference with inspiring her decision to pursue a career in Nuclear Engineering. Berenice, a first-generation college student, immigrated with her family to the US from Mexico when she was eighteen months old. Her family settled in Weiser and from a young age, her parents stressed the importance of school to Berenice and her four sisters.

### HEALTHCARE AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE SESSION TRANSFORMATIVE IN CHOOSING A CAREER

At Weiser High School, Berenice was placed in advanced classes for English, Math, and Science. She considered various career paths and had settled on the healthcare field but found it difficult to narrow down the career options. During her sophomore year, she got involved with the FHLA club, an organization committed to ensuring Latino youth succeed in going on beyond high school.

Each year, the FHLA organization holds the Healthcare and Technology Conference, and Berenice was excited to attend and meet people from different healthcare professions to help her decide on a field of study. On the day of the conference Berenice was notified that the healthcare portion of the conference was overfilled, and she agreed to attend the technology portion instead. It was during that session that Berenice realized engineering was where she wanted to be!

"They talked about the different types of engineering, what you can do with engineering, and I became fascinated. And I was like, this is way better than what I had ever wanted to do before," she said.

Berenice is now a third-year student at Idaho State University, double majoring in Mechanical Engineering and Nuclear Engineering. Berenice would like to continue doing research after graduation in 2024 and she plans to work in industry for a few years before returning to get her Masters in Nuclear Engineering. She is very grateful that the world of engineering was opened to her at the Hispanic Healthcare and Technology Career Conference.

The 9th Annual Hispanic Healthcare and Technology Career Conference will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023 from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at the College of Southern Idaho. Keynote speaker will be Gina Moreno, first-generation college graduate and program manager at Microsoft.

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.



**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.**

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### 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](mailto:admin@stem.idaho.gov) or visit [stem.idaho.gov](http://stem.idaho.gov).



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