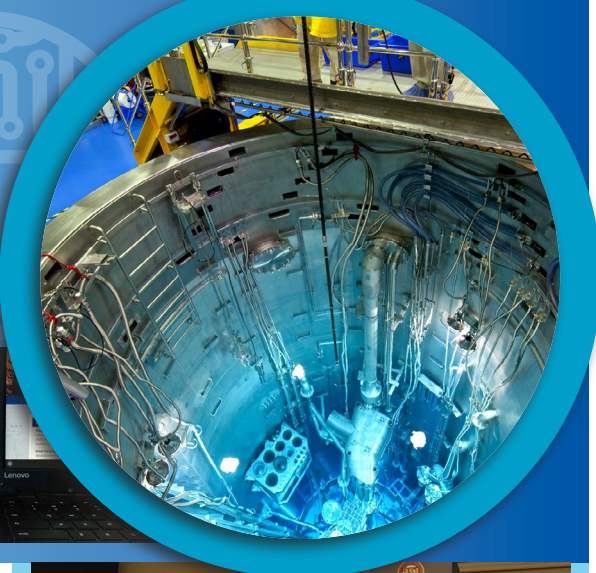
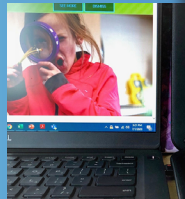
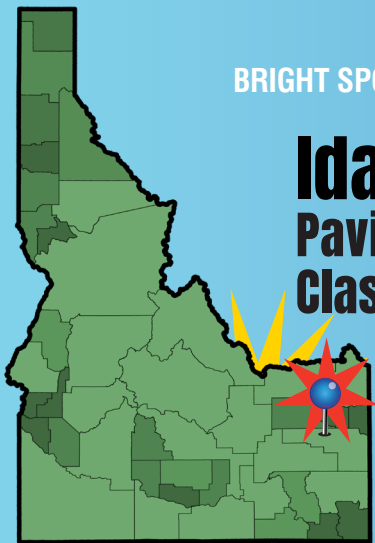


BRIGHT SPOT STEM CAREERS IN SIGHT

## Idaho Falls Paving the Way From Classroom to Career



### SUMMER EXTERNSHIPS FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS AND CAREER COUNSELORS

Educators are integral to students' engagement in STEM and development of a world-class STEM workforce. However, educators often do not have firsthand knowledge and experience in STEM fields - starting their teaching careers straight from a traditional university educational program.

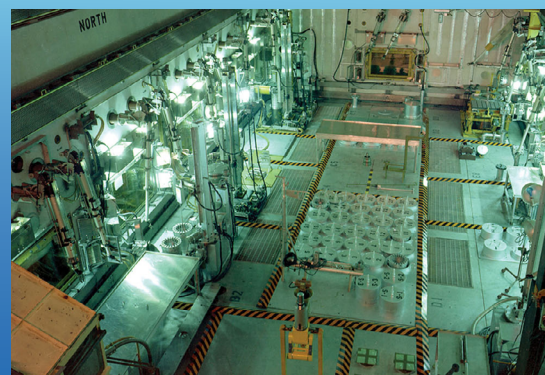
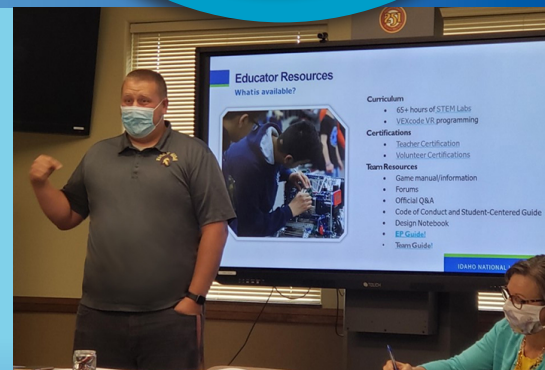
The STEM Action Center, in partnership with the Workforce Development Council, is providing K-12 classroom teachers and college and career advisors the opportunity to extern with local businesses over the summer. This program places selected externs with companies to work on projects related to their area of expertise and requires educators complete 200 hours of on-site, experiential learning. Externs earn \$5,000.00 and professional development credit, if they so choose. The goal of the program is to give educators the opportunity to expand their skill set so that they can better prepare students for life beyond high school.

Idaho National Laboratory (INL) hosted three college and career counselors in the INL Educational Outreach Program office. The externs created a toolkit for College and Career Advisors utilizing resources available within INL.

Krista Christensen, a counselor at Blackfoot Charter Community Learning Center in Blackfoot noted, "I have gained so much knowledge to share with students during classroom lessons and small group or individual counseling/advising sessions. In addition, I now have a great deal of information and resources to share with parents, administration, and teaching colleagues regarding the benefits of STEM learning and mindsets, the importance and awareness of Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities, and related education and career pathways. I want my students to know that high-paying, high-demand, and most importantly enjoyable and fulfilling careers in STEM fields are attainable right here in Southeast Idaho."

Melissa McConnell, a counselor at Thunder Ridge High School in Idaho Falls commented, "This externship has provided me with tools to advise students on how to prepare for high-demand and higher-paying jobs in our area. I can hand them a clear map with specific steps they can do to prepare for their chosen career."

Idaho's STEM jobs pay well, nearly twice the median wage of non-STEM jobs. Helping students learn about STEM job opportunities in their local communities is a win for Idaho's economy.



**STEM** stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. It's in these subjects that students learn the skills of critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration—skills that translate to success in many fields. The STEM Action Center is here to support this development and provide Idaho with the talent pipeline it needs for its economy to thrive. Idaho can generate a strong, STEM-competent and competitive workforce that will make us become a prime STEM business destination.





## We build STEM through:

### EDUCATOR ACCESS

to STEM professional development throughout Idaho

**22,000**  
EDUCATOR  
INTERACTIONS

### WORKFORCE

development-focused partnerships with **INDUSTRY** and **UNIVERSITIES**

**8,000**  
STEM EDUCATION  
interactions through  
communities and  
businesses

### Student STEM COMPETITIONS and camp support

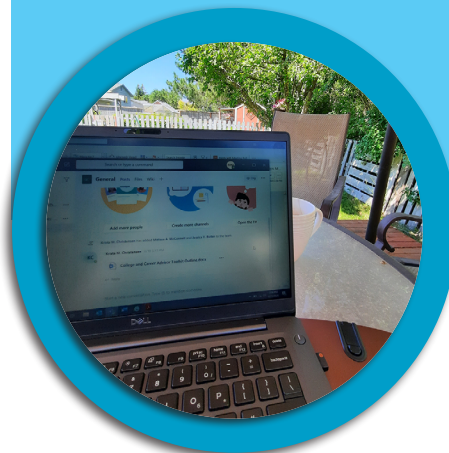
**164,000**  
STUDENT  
INTERACTIONS

Today's students will be tomorrow's workforce, and the STEM Action Center has been created to develop the STEM-skilled talent that Idaho employers need.

#### Our Partners



## Paving the Way From Classroom to Career



### TODAY'S EFFORTS. TOMORROW'S SUCCESSES.

Industry participation is essential for success, and we're here to help make that participation easier. We've created many ways for Idaho businesses to engage with STEM education. From mentoring and volunteering to donating and partnering, you can help move the economy forward by closing the gaps in Idaho's workforce. Let us help you help Idaho!

### 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).



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