

Bright Spot 2023

Career Connected Education for Tomorrow's Workforce in Idaho



North Idaho Students Get Creative and Explore Construction Careers

NIBCA in North Idaho



PET PARADE OF HOMES COMPETITION GIVES STUDENTS INSIGHT INTO BUILDING INDUSTRY

To engage students in North Idaho, the North Idaho Building Contractors Association (NIBCA) Education Committee hosted the first Pet Parade of Homes event to spark interest in construction and trade careers with hands-on learning for students in grades K-12. Sponsored by the Idaho North and North Central (STEM INNC) EcosySTEM Hub, the Pet Parade of Homes took place September 7-13 in conjunction with the annual Parade of Homes event.

The fun event provided age-appropriate hands-on learning experiences for about 30 students who learned about the process of designing and building a structure from conception to completion. Participants in grades K-2 used were introduced to *The House That She Built*, a book inspired by the team of real women who came together from around the country to build a one-of-a-kind home. Students in grades 3-5 used LEGO building blocks to help them design and bring their ideas to life. Makedo kits and cardboard construction helped students in grades 6-8 design and build their pet homes, and older students in grades 9-12 were introduced to the many career opportunities in the construction industry and worked under a local builder/architect mentor to build a working home for their pet.

After a successful competition in 2022, NIBCA plans to continue bringing the Pet Parade of Homes event to North Idaho students in the future. The event was also a catalyst for starting a new Student Chapter of NIBCA in North Idaho!



**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.**

STEM...Helping build a prosperous Idaho!





TINY HOME BUILT TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY HOUSING NEED

At the A. Neil DeAtley Career Technical Education Center in Lewiston, students in construction classes this school year are learning about home building by building a tiny house. The project provides opportunities for students in grades 9-12 to apply math and science concepts to trade skills such as electrical, plumbing, building, and budgeting. The program, in its first year with the sponsorship support from the Idaho North and North Central (STEM INNOC) EcosySTEM Hub, expects costs will be recovered annually as each home is built and sold.

Students began by investigating the availability of affordable homes, gathering data from real estate sales and inventory, and gaining an understanding of income needs to sustain the purchase of a home. Students obtain relevant employment data for the Lewiston area, survey community members, and interview city officials and organizations supporting homeless populations. This research helps construction students understand why building a tiny home addresses a need in the Lewiston community.

To prepare for the building process, students engage with coursework from THinc Build, articles, videos, along with building industry mentors as resources for learning. As students complete coursework, they engage with a skills component, completing mini projects as practice and demonstrating skills necessary to build the tiny house.

Under the guidance of industry experts, students are given opportunities to project manage and lead during various stages of the construction project. Student leaders manage project timelines, labor requests and plans for the work and how they will collaborate with other leads to complete the project on time and within budget.

The construction classes partner with a community real estate professional to mentor students and guide the process of selling the tiny home. Proceeds from the sale of the first tiny home will be used to fund the home that construction students will build the next year.

Construction industry careers – from construction managers and carpenters to civil engineers and architect – require STEM skills. Idaho STEM Action Center is partnering with the building industry to ensure students have opportunities to see themselves succeeding in construction careers in Idaho.

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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