



**CONTACT:**

Angela Hemingway, 208.332.1726, [angela.hemingway@stem.idaho.gov](mailto:angela.hemingway@stem.idaho.gov)

Jon Hanian, 208.334.2100, [jon.hanian@gov.idaho.gov](mailto:jon.hanian@gov.idaho.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Idaho STEM Action Center awards 109 PK12 grants**

BOISE, Idaho (Jan. 11, 2017) — The Idaho STEM Action Center just awarded more than a quarter-million dollars in PK12 grants to education professionals and organizations throughout the state. The grants provide recipients, such as kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers, libraries, and out-of-school organizations, with up to \$2,500 each to fund innovative science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer-science projects.

Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter said the effort is fueling an array of creative and exciting STEM-learning opportunities.

“The hands-on, project-based activities the STEM Action Center’s grants enable will engage and inspire the scientists, engineers, and technicians of tomorrow,” Gov. Otter said. “Experiential learning efforts like these are critical to building Idaho’s future workforce.”

Approved projects range from electronics and robotics, drones and solar cars, and anatomy and physiology equipment like microscopes and plastic models to water-quality testing kits for analyzing fish habitats, camera trap systems for studying birds and mammals, and augmented reality systems to explore earth sciences concepts.

Totaling \$253,448.59, the 109 PK12 grants are the first round of awards the STEM Action Center has announced in fiscal year 2017, which began July 1, 2016. During its 2016 fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2016, the agency delivered more than \$250,000 in aid to Idaho organizations and individuals to fund STEM efforts, including \$50,000 for PK12 grants and \$35,000 for family STEM events. Last year’s grants also fueled professional development opportunities for educators, as well as robotics and 3D design and fabrication competitions.

Conceived in the Office of the Governor, the Idaho STEM Action Center was approved during the 2015 legislative session to help produce a competitive workforce by implementing K-through-career science, technology, engineering, and math education programs aligned with industry needs. During the 2016 session, the Idaho Legislature set the STEM Action Center’s annual budget at \$2.4 million, appropriated \$2 million into a STEM Education Fund to help start up local STEM programs, and approved the addition of a computer science program manager to oversee the Computer Science Initiative.

– more –

Angela Hemingway, the center's executive director, said it's an exciting time to be involved in STEM education in Idaho. "STEM knowledge and skills are important to the future of Idaho's economy and long-term prosperity," she said. "STEM-related jobs pay well in Idaho, and for each new STEM job five more jobs are created.

"The experiential learning that occurs in these types of STEM activities promotes creative thinking, problem solving, and collaboration — skills even students who don't pursue STEM careers will find valuable. When Idahoans think STEM, we want them to think Idaho STEM Action Center. Our goal is to make our agency the go-to place in the Gem State for STEM resources, grants, professional development, and student competitions."

The PK12 grant recipients are:

Aberdeen Middle School, Aberdeen  
Ada Community Library – Hidden Springs Branch, Boise  
Albertsons Library at Boise State University, Boise  
Another Choice Virtual Charter School, Nampa  
Athol Elementary School, Athol  
Boise Urban Garden School, Boise  
Borah High School, Boise  
Burley High School, Burley  
Caldwell High School, Caldwell  
Canfield Middle School, Coeur d'Alene (x2)  
Cascade School District #422, Cascade (x2)  
Castleford School District #417, Castleford (x2)  
Centennial Elementary School, Lewiston (x2)  
Compass Academy, Idaho Falls  
Council High School, Council  
Dietrich School District #314, Dietrich  
East Bonner County Library District, Sandpoint  
Emmett Middle School, Emmett  
Falcon Ridge Charter School, Kuna  
Fernan STEM Academy, Coeur d'Alene  
Fremont County School Joint District #215, St. Anthony  
Galileo STEM Academy, Eagle (x4)  
Genesee Joint School District #282, Genesee  
Glenns Ferry Public Library, Glenns Ferry  
Grangeville Elementary/Middle School, Grangeville  
Grangeville Elementary/Middle School PTA, Grangeville  
Greensferry Elementary School, Post Falls  
Hagerman Public Library, Hagerman  
Hailey Public Library, Hailey

2017 PK12 STEM GRANT RECIPIENTS  
JAN. 11, 2017 • PAGE 3 OF 4

*PK12 grant recipients (continued):*

Heritage Middle School, Meridian  
Idaho Arts Charter School, Nampa  
Idaho Falls Public Library, Idaho Falls  
Idaho Public Television (ISU), Pocatello  
Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy, Pierce  
Intermountain Bird Observatory at Boise State University, Boise  
Jefferson Joint School District #251, Rigby (x2)  
Kendrick Joint School District #283, Kendrick  
Kendrick Jr./Sr. High School, Kendrick  
Kershaw Intermediate School, Sugar City  
Kimberly High School, Kimberly  
Kimberly Middle School, Kimberly  
Kuna Library District, Kuna  
Lake Pend Oreille School District #84, Ponderay  
Lake Ridge Elementary, Nampa  
Lakeland Joint School District #272, Rathdrum  
Lakes Magnet Middle School, Coeur d'Alene  
Leadore School, Leadore  
Lincoln High School, Idaho Falls  
Madison Junior High School, Rexburg  
Madison Library District, Rexburg  
Marsh Valley High School, Arimo  
McSorley Elementary School, Lewiston  
Middleton High School, Middleton  
Middleton School District #134, Middleton (x2)  
Mill Creek Elementary School, Middleton  
Monroe Elementary School, Boise  
Moscow School District #281, Moscow (x3)  
Moscow School District Adventure Club, Moscow  
Mountainview Alternative High School, Rathdrum  
Murtaugh Joint School District #418, Murtaugh  
New Plymouth School District #372, New Plymouth  
Newcomer Center & Dworshak Elementary School, Burley  
Nezperce Elementary School, Nezperce  
Nezperce School District #302, Nezperce  
North Bingham County District Library, Shelley  
North Gem School District #149, Bancroft  
North Idaho STEM Charter Academy, Rathdrum  
Notus Elementary School, Notus  
Notus Public Library, Notus

*PK12 grant recipients (continued):*

Orofino High School, Orofino  
Palouse Prairie Educational Organization, Moscow  
Payette Lakes Community Association, McCall  
Pepper Ridge Elementary School, Boise  
Potlatch Elementary School, Potlatch  
Purple Sage Elementary School, Caldwell  
Ridgevue High School, Nampa  
Rigby Middle School, Rigby  
Rolling Hills Public Charter School, Garden City  
Salmon School District #291, Salmon  
Sandpoint Middle School, Sandpoint (x2)  
Shoshone Public Library, Shoshone  
Syringa Middle School, Caldwell  
Temple View Elementary School, Idaho Falls  
Tigert Middle School, Soda Springs  
Treasure Valley Mathematics and Science Center, Boise  
Twin Falls School District #411, Twin Falls (x2)  
University of Idaho Extension, Moscow  
Vallivue Middle School, Caldwell  
Vallivue School District #139, Caldwell (x2)  
West Ada School District #2, Meridian  
West Park Elementary School, Moscow  
Westside Elementary School, Payette  
Wilson Elementary School, Caldwell  
Woodland Hills Elementary School, Idaho Falls  
Woodland Middle School, Coeur d'Alene

**About the Idaho STEM Action Center**

The Idaho STEM Action Center is part of the Governor's Office and was created by state lawmakers in 2015 to enhance Idaho's STEM environment by connecting resources, students, educators and businesses. The organization is working with industry, government, educators, and students to develop new resources and support high-quality teacher professional-development opportunities to foster a STEM-educated workforce to ensure Idaho's continued economic prosperity. Visit [stem.idaho.gov](http://stem.idaho.gov) for more information.

###