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.
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

– more –
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

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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 for more information.

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