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## **Idaho, AWS collaborate on cloud-computing education effort**

*STEM Action Center, Amazon Web Services team up to certify  
2,000 Idahoans in tech skills over the next two years*

BOISE, Idaho (Aug. 11, 2021) — Idaho Gov. Brad Little announced at a kickoff event today the Idaho STEM Action Center and Amazon Web Services (AWS) are collaborating to train, upskill, and certify 2,000 Idahoans in cloud computing during the next two years. Through this statewide initiative, technical training and education mapped to in-demand skills will be available from participating public high schools, community colleges, and universities across Idaho.

Cloud computing jobs are in high demand across the U.S. — with 5.3 million jobs posted nationwide, according to Economic Modeling Specialists International — and Idaho is no exception. EMSI reports 16,846 open cloud-computing job postings were available from July 2020 to June 2021 in Idaho.

In addition, LinkedIn has ranked cloud computing as one of the most in-demand hard skills for the past five years, and two AWS certifications appear on Global Knowledge's 2020 top-10 highest-paying certifications list.

Gov. Little said companies across industries and sectors continue to need skilled technical talent, and increasing access to cloud-computing training and education in Idaho will position the state to have a cloud-ready workforce.

“We are excited to collaborate with Amazon Web Services to provide training and certifications across Idaho,” Gov. Little said. “Increasing the number of Idaho workers certified in cloud computing will support our growing businesses and provide good, well-paying jobs for our citizens.”

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The course offerings are designed using AWS education programs for students in high school and higher education, as well as adults who are interested in reskilling or reentering the workforce. The curricula will prepare students for industry-recognized AWS certifications required for many jobs in communities statewide and will allow learners to gain skills to be competitive for cloud computing jobs overall.

The Idaho Workforce Development Council, Idaho State Board of Education, Idaho State Department of Education, Idaho Career & Technical Education, and many employers across the state are supporting the effort.

“AWS is committed to supporting forward-thinking leaders in Idaho who are building pathways for learners to pursue technical careers, introducing cloud computing to high school students and enhancing education at community colleges and universities,” Kim Majerus, leader, U.S. education, state and local government at AWS, said. “We are thrilled to be collaborating with Gov. Little and the Idaho STEM Action Center, who are building equitable access to STEM pathways for everyone in the state.”

Dr. Kaitlin Maguire, the STEM Action Center’s executive director, concurs.

“Providing innovative professional-development opportunities like this to leaders, educators, and industry helps Idaho build a more competitive workforce and bolster its economy,” Dr. Maguire said. “This collaboration will help enhance the digital literacy of Idaho students and increase the pool of workers certified in cloud computing.”

Idaho employers are excited about the potential to build a vibrant new pipeline of AWS cloud-skilled candidates to meet local workforce needs.

“Healthcare continues to undergo a major digital transformation,” Jared Mattravers, senior director of technology operations at St. Luke’s Health System, said. “Investing in the skills and talent that will be required of the next generation of our workforce will enable St. Luke’s to continue delivering exceptional care to the communities we serve.”

VYNYL CTO and partner Erick Herring echoed those sentiments.

“We are thrilled Amazon and the STEM Action Center are collaborating on this important initiative,” Herring said. “Access to skilled cloud-native development and operations personnel is critical to our continued growth, and there’s no better way to ensure that access than to build capacity directly in Idaho.”

Wendi Secrist, executive director of the Idaho Workforce Development Council, said that AWS education programs perfectly align with the state’s efforts to put citizens on the path to prosperity.

“One of Idaho’s biggest challenges is the alignment of skills and competencies between our employers and our workforce,” Secrist said. “Working with AWS to develop training will take great strides in improving Idaho’s cloud-computing talent pipeline.”

Prior to courses being offered at education institutions across the state, educators will receive professional development and opportunities to earn AWS certifications. Interested instructors can sign up for free at [stem.idaho.gov/aws](https://stem.idaho.gov/aws) through August 2022.

Idaho Career & Technical Education is embedding the curriculum from AWS education programs in two of its courses, Web Design & Development and Programming & Software Development Pathways, and College of Eastern Idaho is launching the programs this fall. Idaho State University is implementing AWS education programs within its business technology program and plans to offer a new tech certification in spring 2022. College of Western Idaho has hired an instructor to teach it and will begin its AWS foundation course Nov. 9. Lewis-Clark State College has expressed interest and plans to participate in the near future, while Boise State University and Brigham Young University-Idaho have implemented similar AWS education programs on their own.

Visit [stem.idaho.gov/aws](https://stem.idaho.gov/aws) to learn more about the AWS Academy program available to Idaho schools. Visit [aboutamazon.com/news/workplace/workforce-programs-for-the-public-get-started](https://aboutamazon.com/news/workplace/workforce-programs-for-the-public-get-started) to learn more about AWS education programs, a part of AWS Training and Certification.

### ***About the Idaho STEM Action Center***

The Idaho STEM Action Center was created in 2015 because Idaho citizens are not entering the STEM pipeline fast enough to meet current and future Idaho workforce needs. Its goals are to increase equitable access to STEM opportunities, align education and workforce needs, and amplify awareness of STEM throughout Idaho. The organization is working with industry, government, educators, and students to develop new resources and support high-quality professional-development opportunities to foster a STEM-educated workforce that ensures Idaho's continued economic prosperity.

Visit [STEM.idaho.gov](https://STEM.idaho.gov) for more information, and visit <https://STEM.idaho.gov/support-us/foundation> to make a tax-deductible donation to the Idaho STEM Action Center Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, to enhance the investment the state has made in Idaho's STEM community. Contributions provide greater access to STEM camps for children, student competitions, and many other life-shaping programs.

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