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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Micron donates classroom kits to STEM lending library at CWI

NAMPA, Idaho (April 28, 2022) — The Micron Foundation recently donated new lesson kits to the i-STEM Library at the College of Western Idaho. The kits, “States of Matter” and “Electricity,” come complete with materials and lesson plans, and two additional classroom kits, “Rockets: Forces of Motion” and “Binary: Language of Computers,” will join them by the end of summer.

The i-STEM Libraries are a network of STEM resource hubs that loan science, technology, engineering, and math equipment and materials to Idaho educators, including formal teachers and librarians at public schools and informal educators with out-of-school programs and parent-teacher organizations. The libraries are strategically located at six college campuses across the state, including CWI in the Treasure Valley, College of Eastern Idaho in Idaho Falls, College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, Gizmo-CdA Makerspace on the campus of North Idaho College in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho State University in Pocatello, and Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston.

“By providing these kits to the i-STEM Library, more educators can access them on a regular basis,” STEM Action Center executive director Dr. Kaitlin Maguire said. “And the kits come with high-quality lesson plans that are easy to implement in classrooms. This is a great resource for the Treasure Valley community.”

CWI Dean of Math and Science Kae Jensen, who manages the college’s i-STEM Library, concurred.

“We are so happy to add these kits to previous donations the Treasure Valley i-STEM Library has received from Micron,” Jensen said. “Micron intentionally supports STEM Education in Idaho by providing not only the resources themselves, but also clear guidance on how to integrate the materials into the classroom. Micron provides detailed lesson plans with each donation, and this makes the work of teachers so much easier and the benefits to students so much stronger. We look forward to seeing these items checked out by our local teachers on a regular basis.”

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According to Dee Mooney, executive director of the Micron Foundation and board chair of Idaho STEM Action Center, supporting teachers with materials like these directly benefits students.

“The i-STEM Libraries are critical to enhancing Idaho teachers’ ability to confidently teach STEM topics,” Mooney said. “Micron has been providing STEM lessons in classrooms for over two decades, with the goal of making STEM concepts fun and accessible to all students. Supporting CWI’s i-STEM Library with lesson kits equips more teachers across Micron’s home state with the tools to help more students find pathways to careers in engineering.”

Visit stem.idaho.gov/i-stem-library to access the new online catalogue, learn more about the host sites, and get more details. Educators and organizations interested in borrowing equipment and classroom sets from their local i-STEM Library can make a request through the catalog and pick up items on site.

About Idaho STEM Action Center

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 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 for more information, and visit <https://STEM.idaho.gov/support-us/foundation> to make a tax-deductible donation to 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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