



MEDIA ALERT: June 21-24, 2022

Educators convening at i-STEM Institutes this week at CWI

WHO Educators from throughout the state are convening at College of Western Idaho for four days this week to learn STEM content and network at a workshop staged by Idaho STEM Action Center.

WHAT The i-STEM Institutes offer educators high-quality, relevant, hands-on professional-development opportunities at five flagship locations throughout the state in June. Each four-day session features independent strands conducted by educators focused on the 2022 theme, “Amplify STEM,” to help participants share their knowledge and passion for science, technology, engineering, and math within their schools and communities. This year’s strands include:

- “Earth’s Place in the Universe” for PK-8 educators
- “Making with Micro:bits” for educators in grades 5-12
- “Biology at Every Scale: From Virus to Carbon Cycles” for educators in grades 8-12
- “Ready, Set, Drones” for educators in grades 4-8
- “Build, Create & Innovate” for PK-12 educators
- “IDX: Engineering Solutions with 3D Design & Fabrication” for educators in grades 5-12
- “BrickLAB” for K-6 educators

Participants will leave with a kit of materials related to the strand they attend, ready to implement what they have learned into their classrooms. Plus, they can register for continuing education credits.

WHERE Micron Education Center at the College of Western Idaho Nampa Campus, 5725 E. Franklin Rd., Nampa, ID 83687

WHEN June 21-24, 2022, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily with the most newsworthy opportunities including:

- **Tuesday afternoon** — Drones will start flying
- **Wednesday all day** — Drones will continue flying
- **Wednesday @ noon** — Luncheon with legislators, sponsors, and other VIPs

NOTE: Participants will be offsite most of **Thursday June 23** on field trips throughout the area.

WHY STEM jobs in Idaho are projected to grow 15.4 percent by 2030, outpacing the national average of STEM job growth at 10 percent. STEM jobs are broad and include careers in healthcare, engineering, software development, and agriculture, and STEM jobs pay nearly twice as much as non-STEM jobs. STEM education builds knowledge and skills that are important to the future of Idaho, because it help students develop creative thinking, problem solving, innovation, and collaboration skills. These are skills that Idaho employers want and are needed to solve tomorrow’s problems.

HOW 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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