

Cultivating the Future of STEM in Idaho

Idaho STEM Ecosystem's State of STEM Report



How We Got Here

- In December 2019, TIES interviewed stakeholders from a variety of sectors working throughout Idaho.
- Those findings were presented at Idaho STEM Ecosystem's Design Studio in January 2020.
- Over 2020 and 2021, TIES worked with Idaho STEM Action Center and key Idaho STEM Ecosystem stakeholders to add additional information to interview and survey findings, including statewide statistics in areas of workforce, growing industries, education, poverty, etc.

Interview Findings

Assets in Idaho

- The Idaho STEM Action Center is the right partner to lead the ecosystem work;
- The state's three public state universities collaborate well together and are able to lend a lens of research and equity to the work; and
- Strong collaborative cross-sectors networks established that can be leveraged to scale positive impact.

Goals for Idaho

- Leverage existing resources and networks to foster greater collaboration among diverse organizations and populations;
- Start early and enable the provision of strong early childhood education for Idaho's youngest residents;
- Reimagine teacher preparation and professional development programs;
- Highlight existing bright spots and promising practices for replication;
- Work with state government to strengthen career pathways;
- Support strategies that will increase access to STEM opportunities for all populations in Idaho.

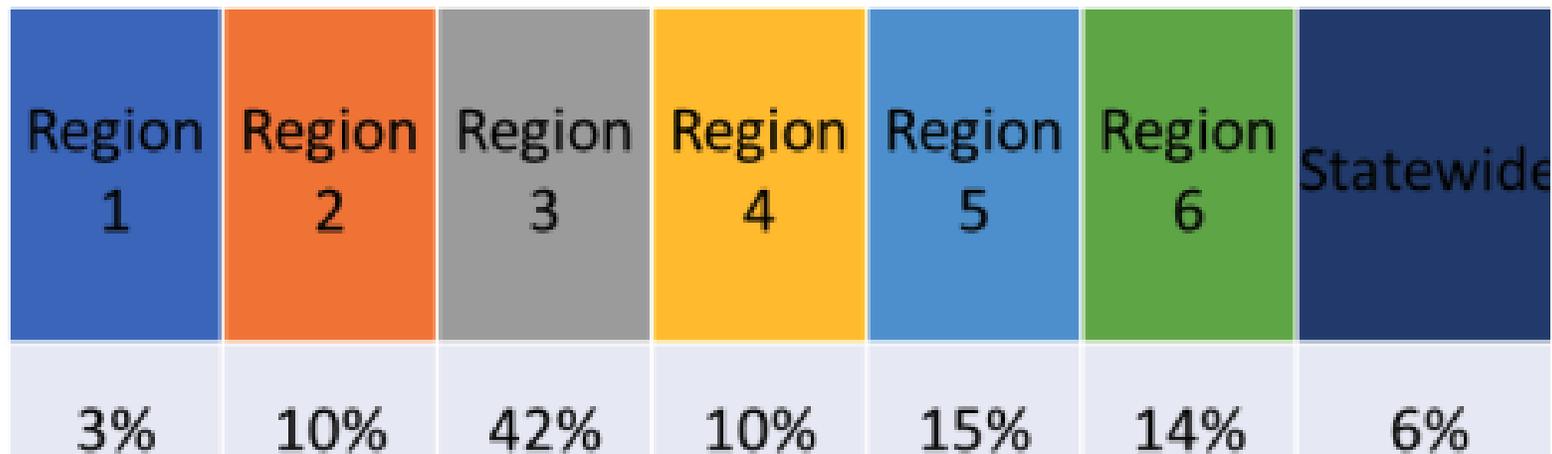
How We Got Here Continued

- In September - October 2020, the Idaho STEM Action Center presented findings from surveys distributed through all state regions to collect more information about the state of STEM learning, partnerships, technology, infrastructure, and more.

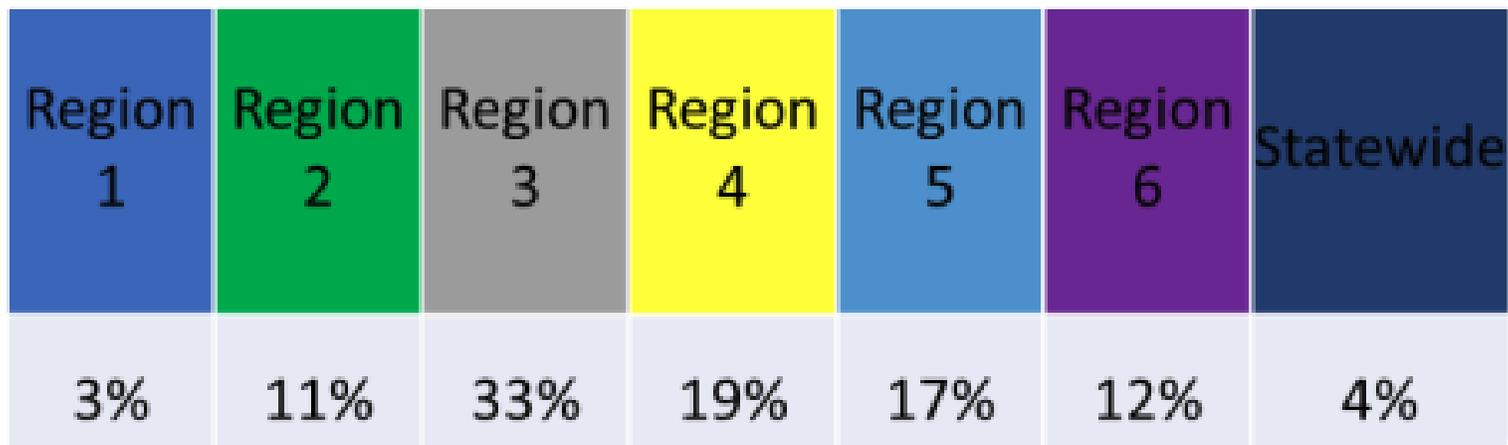
Who gave input?



September



October



In which geographic region is your organization located?

Defining Community

Regions 1 & 2

- Rural
- Remote
- Agricultural
- Tribal presence
- Strong connections to land
- Mixed industry, largely featuring forestry & agriculture
- Divides

Regions 3 & 4

- Statewide/regional-big, diverse population
- Specific industry focus/gov agencies
- Local-peripheral rural communities
- Hispanic populations
- Low SES populations

Regions 5 & 6

- Rural
- Remote
- Agricultural
- Hispanic/Indigenous populations
- Socioeconomic dividers create/reinforce educational divides



Resources

Regions 1 & 2

Available

- Specific programs
- Higher education networks

Missing

- **Funding**
- Coordination; **Connection** between industry & education
- Interest & awareness, especially for families

Regions 3 & 4

Available

- **Volunteers**
- **Funding**
- Training Operations
- Venues

Missing

- Ongoing **funding**
- Staffing
- Resources
- **Leadership**
- Access & inequity
- Awareness
- Training
- Time

Regions 5 & 6

Available

- Industry **funding** support & volunteer expertise
- University student and professional **volunteers**
- Clubs/extracurriculars

Missing

- **Leadership**
- Additional human power
- **Connection** & communication strategies
- **Funding**



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Feedback

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Elevator Pitches

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In Pairs...

How do you plan to use this report in your daily work?

When your colleagues ask what you have been doing, what will you share?

Do you have an elevator pitch you use to describe your work with the Idaho STEM Ecosystem? How will you incorporate this report in that?

