



WELCOME!

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ACTION ITEMS:

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The STEM Action Center is supporting legislation which will significantly increase our ability to serve Idaho's educators, students and workforce. First, the Governor is recommending \$2M in ongoing funding to carry out the dictates in [Idaho Code §67-823](#). By fully funding the STEM Action Center we will be able to effectively accomplish the following:

- * Rollout of a statewide science fair (Intel Science and Engineering Fair) hosted by BSU, ISU, U of I and CSI.
- * Support high-quality STEM professional development opportunities for educators
- * Support scholarships for the workforce including STEM teaching endorsements and workforce certification courses
- * Support students in state, regional and national STEM competitions
- * Create a robust mentorship/internship program
- * Provide educator grants and family and community STEM events

House Bill 379 is the [Computer Science initiative](#). The goal of this legislation is focused on both Idaho's educators and workforce. For educators, the legislation would support computer science endorsements and training including educator incentives and scholarships. This bill would also fund computer science grants which could include hardware, software

and other computer science support materials. The workforce is another area of focus in the proposed legislation. Providing incentives including completion of computer science training and courses are included in the legislation. Scholarships for certificates, credentials, mentorship and internship opportunities would also be made available to the

workforce. Currently, this legislation has passed the full house and will be heard in the Senate later this session.

To fund the computer science initiative, the Governor is recommending the STEM Education Fund. This fund would contain a one-time infusion of \$10M from which up to \$2M per year could be used to implement the Computer Science Initiative. This fund would also be able to receive inputs from industry and external grants.

STEM MATTERS CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS!

Our inaugural STEM awareness event was held on January 29th at the Capitol and it was a great success.

Over 20 organizations shared their STEM expertise and enthusiasm with Senators, Representatives, Congressmen and the general public. TV crews filmed robots zipping across marble floors and 5th graders coding. STEMBusUSA drew in the crowds and showed off hands-on and engaging technologies in a mobile environment.

To see more pictures and access links to the media coverage please visit our website at <http://stem.idaho.gov/media-press/>.



Grants and Funding

Family STEM Event Grants

The Family STEM Event Grant is designed to support a publicly-funded organization wishing to host a Family STEM Event. The event must target not only students, but also their parents/guardians, industry and the community at large. The event could focus specifically on math or science or be in celebration of STEM in general. Grants of up to \$1,000 will be awarded to those organizations selected.

GRANT PROCESS DATES:

Applications will be reviewed after the closing date of February 15, 2016. Awards will be announced on March 7th and applicants will receive their award on or before March 11, 2016. The event must be completed by November 18, 2016 and final reports will be due to the STEM Action Center by December 30, 2016.

We encourage you to review the SCORING RUBRIC at <http://stem.idaho.gov/apply-for-support/grants/>.

[Learn More](#)

PK12 STEM Grants Announced

The Idaho STEM Action Center (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) announced has released \$48,175 to 23 Idaho educators. Projects will be implemented this spring in classrooms and school libraries throughout Idaho. Projects include elementary robotics, math manipulatives, a variety of high school science probes including accelerometers and water-quality probes, hydrogen fuel cars, drones and "dronology" curriculum for high school, aquaponics, 3D design and printing, makerspace start-up for a school library; STEM summer camp for the blind and visually impaired, and computer software for modeling and coding.

[Learn More](#)

Teen Tech Week® Opportunity for School Libraries

2016 TEEN TECH WEEK™

CREATE IT AT  YOUR LIBRARY!

Each year libraries across the nation celebrate Teen Tech Week, an initiative sponsored by the American Library Association. This year's theme is "Create It at Your Library" and the dates are March 6-12, 2016. **The Idaho Commission for Libraries** supports this initiative with their very own Idaho celebration and they are inviting your library to join in the fun! Participation is easy as 1,2,3.

- Register with ICfL before February 26, to receive a free MAKER book and some cool ALA graphic bookmarks.
- Plan and hold a teen program/event in March related to technology (submit report to ICfL by April 8, 2016).
- After your event, share your favorite creations via a contest entry and have a chance to **win some cool Maker tools**. The larger Idaho Library community will be invited to help judge the contest.

Find out more by visiting the Commission's webpage:

<http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/teen-tech-week>

Professional Development

FabSLAM 3D Design and Fabrication Professional Development – Application Open!

The STEM Action Center in partnership with The Discovery Center and the Digital Harbor Foundation are pleased to announce a unique training opportunity for middle and high school educators! FabSLAM is a multi-week, team-based, digital fabrication challenge where youth learn and practice design, iteration, and production skills primarily focused on 3D design and 3D printing.

Fifteen educators will attend three days of training at DCI and then return to their site to assemble a team of students to complete the 3D fabrication challenge. Did we mention the educator receives a free 3D printer as part of this opportunity?

[Learn More](#)

Sustainable Forestry Tour for Teachers/Counselors

June 20-24, 2016

[Learn More](#)

Project Learning Tree Professional Development Workshops for Educators

[Learn More](#)

New Resources

LearnStorm: Introducing a Khan Academy learning challenge for Idaho

Khan Academy's LearnStorm is a free math challenge designed to build perseverance and grit here in Idaho students. From January 29th to April 1st, students in grades 3-12 will be able to earn points to unlock prizes for themselves and their school by practicing math on KhanAcademy.org. This challenge is aligned to Idaho's Math Standards.

Here are some key details about LearnStorm:

- Builds confidence in every student – LearnStorm rewards growth and diligence as much as achievement, so that every student has the opportunity to be recognized for their hard work.

- Strengthens math skills – With thousands of interactive exercises, hints, and videos, LearnStorm is flexible for remediation and for advanced learning.

-Rewards school teams as well as individual students – Students can work independently and as members of their school team, building school pride and earning the chance to attend an epic, in-person final celebration.

-Is easy to sign up and flexible to participate – It's quick for teachers to get their students going and requires NO changes to the classroom. Students can work anywhere with an internet connection.

Sign-ups are now open at LearnStorm2016.org! Take a look at this introductory video to learn more.

STEM Academy Offers Free Middle School STEM Resources to Idaho Schools

If you are interested in using STEM Academy's free resources for middle school STEM, please follow [this link](#) to sign up. There are a variety of downloadable resources, linked to Idaho math and ELA standards and compatible with Idaho's science standards. Pathways include: agriculture, architecture, aviation, coding, biotechnology, electronics, engineering, design, food science, IT, manufacturing, medical, sustainability and transportation.

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Contact Information

To contribute or provide suggestions, please contact [Erica](#) at 208.332.1725 or 208.994.2573.

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