



WELCOME!

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ACTION ITEMS:

1. [Apply](#) for a variety of educator PD opportunities!
2. [Follow us on Facebook](#) for STEM resources, grants, news, and more!
3. [Apply](#) for FabSLAM 3d design/fabrication Competition

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The STEM Action Center received an increased appropriation during the 2016 legislative session. This increased funding will allow the Center to carry out additional dictates in [Idaho Code §67-823](#). This will include the creation of a statewide science and engineering fair, the expansion of the educator and community grant programs and additional STEM professional development opportunities. More funding will also be made available for students to compete in statewide and national STEM competitions. Please visit stem.idaho.gov for additional information and opportunities.

House Bill 379 (the [Computer Science Initiative](#)) also received strong bipartisan support and was signed into law by Governor Otter last week. This initiative focuses on both Idaho's educators and workforce. For educators, the legislation will support computer science endorsements and professional development including educator incentives and scholarships. This bill will also fund computer science grants including hardware, software and other support materials. In relation to the workforce, the legislation will provide incentives including completion of computer science training and courses and scholarships for certificates, credentials, and mentorship and internship opportunities.

We are also pleased to announce that the Center is now an education tax credit entity! With the passage of [House Bill 357](#), individuals can now receive a tax credit for up to \$500 and corporations up to \$5,000. You can find the "[Donate Now](#)" link on our website. Thank you for those individuals and businesses who have supported our projects and programs. Donations are accepted year-round and now qualify for an Idaho tax credit.

Pi Day FUNdraising Event A BIG Success



Over 150 guests joined the STEM Action Center to celebrate Pi Day (3.14) and help raise funds at the Telaya Winery along the beautiful Boise River. Our guests had the opportunity to learn about cutting edge technologies, network with other STEM-interested individuals, and enjoy scrumptious food and wine. Lt. Governor Brad Little spoke about the need for mentorship to inspire students to pursue STEM careers and legislators and industry representatives had the opportunity to interact with educators and community members to discuss STEM awareness, successes and challenges.

The evening was full of action including STEMbusUSA tours, robot races, Segway rides, and a live auction. Attendees actively bid on over 20 techie items including a 3D Printer, a Drone, and a STEMbusUSA school field trip. The generosity continued as we asked everyone to support STEM professional development for rural teachers and student travel grants for national competitions by raising their paddles to donate to our mission. By the end of the night we had raised over **\$24,000!** The generosity of our donors will make it possible to bring innovative STEM programs to Idaho.

We are very grateful for the support of KBOI2-TV and Johnna Johnson, our very enthusiastic Master of Ceremonies. We could not have done it without them! Pi Day will be an annual event, so stay tuned for information and plan to join us next year for another STEMazing evening of fun!



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 Idaho STEM Action Center announced today that it has awarded grants up to \$1,000 each to 36 educational organizations throughout Idaho to support family friendly science, technology, engineering and math events in their communities.

The STEM Center received 44 applications and awarded 36 grants. Total funds awarded exceed \$34,000. This is the second round of grants the STEM Center has distributed. It awarded 23 pre-kindergarten-through-high school grants totaling more than \$48,000 in January to schools, libraries and such non-profit organizations as the Boys & Girls Clubs.

"Events that get kids and families interested in STEM learning are critical to the STEM Action Center and to Idaho's long-term economic success," Hemingway said. "Bringing STEM awareness to students and families is essential to ensure that more Idahoans have the opportunity to experience hands-on, project-based STEM in their community. These STEM Events grants will allow families to engage with educators and industry while they have fun learning more about STEM in the community."

Congratulations to the following organizations for their successful grant applications:

- Ada Community Library's Hidden Springs and Lake Hazel branches
- Aberdeen Middle School (Aberdeen)
- Alameda Middle School (Pocatello)
- Barbara Morgan STEM Academy (Meridian)
- Bear Lake County Library (Montpelier)
- Burley Junior High School (Burley)
- Canyon Elementary Science Magnet School (Cataldo)
- Culdesac School (Culdesac)
- Discovery Center of Idaho (Boise)
- Dora Erickson Elementary (Idaho Falls)
- Falcon Ridge Public Charter School (Kuna)
- Fernan STEM Academy (Coeur d'Alene)
- Garfield Elementary School (Boise)
- Genesee Joint School #282 (Genesee)
- Girl Scouts of Silver Sage Council (Boise)
- Glens Ferry Public Library (Glens Ferry)
- Hansen Elementary School (Hansen)
- Heritage Middle School (Meridian)
- Horizons' Lifestyle and Education Team and Valley County Astronomical Society collaboration (Cascade)
- Idaho Public Television (Boise)
- J. Russell Elementary School (Moscow)
- Kuna Public Library (Kuna)
- Marsing School District (Marsing)
- Mentoring Youth Supporting Teens (McCall)
- Mountain Lily Discovery Center (St. Maries)
- North Bingham County District Library (Shelley)
- Parma Learning Center (Parma)
- Payette Children's Forest (McCall)
- Pepper Ridge Elementary (Boise)
- Sacajawea Elementary School (Caldwell)
- Snowdon Wildlife Sanctuary (McCall)
- Southside Elementary School (Cocolalla)
- UI STEM Access Upward Bound (Moscow)
- Syringa Middle School (Caldwell)
- Vision Charter School (Caldwell)

Professional Development

2016 i-STEM Registration Open



2016 i-STEM “Innovating the Future” Summer Institutes for TEAMS of educators and administrators are being held at six of Idaho’s i-STEM Centers, providing a choice of strands at the institute in or near your educational region.

i-STEM Regional Institute Dates:

Lewis & Clark State College, Lewiston: June 20-23

North Idaho College, Coeur d’Alene: June 20-23

Idaho State University, Pocatello: June 21-24

Eastern Idaho Technical College, Idaho Falls: June 27-30

College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls: June 27-30

College of Western Idaho, Nampa: June 27-30

[Register Here](#)

Upcoming Events

Idaho FIRST Robotics Regional Competition

The Idaho *FIRST* Robotics Regional Competition starts in 2016 with 45 teams at the Boise State University, Taco Bell Arena. March 31 – April 2, 2016. This competition challenges high school students around the world to build up to 120 lb. robots to solve playing field challenges in fast paced matches. The Idaho Regional is committed to inspiring young people to become passionate about careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). 2016 is Idaho’s inaugural year.

For more information visit <https://idahofrcregionaldotorg.wordpress.com/>. Check out the 2016 STRONGHOLD challenge <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqOKzoHJDjA>.

FabSLAM 3D Design and Fabrication Competition Open for Registration



Fifteen schools throughout the Gem State are expanding their capabilities to include 3D printing, design and fabrication with help from the Idaho STEM Action Center. Teachers from each school recently learned how to operate, maintain, and troubleshoot 3D printers at a workshop the STEM Action Center held in Boise in partnership with the Discovery Center of Idaho and the Digital Harbor Foundation.

The professional development opportunity is part of FabSLAM, a team-based digital fabrication competition launched by the Digital Harbor Foundation where youth in Idaho, Baltimore and Pittsburgh practice design, iteration and rapid prototyping skills primarily focused on 3D design and 3D printing. With guidance from a coach, each team develops and documents a product that fits the annual theme and requirements. The competition culminates in a FabSLAM Showcase where teams present their products to a panel of judges and a public audience for review and feedback.

The Idaho teachers also received brand-new 3D printers at the workshop to bring back home to their schools, and they will assemble teams in their communities to participate in FabSLAM and serve as coaches. Visit www.digitalharbor.org/fabslam/idaho for more details.

If your organization has a 3D printer and would like to assemble a team to compete, you may find more information and register your team through the link below.

A showcase event for all teams will be held May 14th and the winning team will travel to Washington, DC for the June "Week of Making" kickoff at the White House!

[Learn More](#)

The Center is continually looking for educators and industry partners to help carry out the dictates of our legislation. If you are interested in partnering with us and/or serving as a mentor, please visit stem.idaho.gov and fill out an interest form.

Our mailing address is:

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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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