

# Idaho EcosySTEM Mid-Year Report

## General intent of sponsorship

Through its initial support of the Idaho STEM Ecosystem (“EcosySTEM”) and its pursuit of this sponsorship, STEM AC seeks to fulfill the following legislative requirements as outlined in Idaho State Code 67-823:

“To promote STEM through best practices in education to ensure connection with industry and Idaho’s long-term economic prosperity; to produce an Idaho STEM-competitive workforce to offer better access to competitive employment opportunities; and to drive student experience, engagement and industry alignment by identifying and implementing public and higher education STEM best practices to transform workforce development.” Specifically, STEM AC’s intent aligns with:

§5 (e) “Strategically engage industry, business and public or government entities to cooperate with the STEM action center and focus outcomes and goals on workforce needs and opportunities;”

§5 (h) Engage private entities to provide additional funding and/or in-kind employee time for STEM activities in schools supporting industry career readiness in addition to what is currently provided by private entities.

§7 (b) Ensure that the STEM action center acts as a research and development center for tools and best practice in STEM education coordination and development;

§7 (d) Facilitate participation in interscholastic STEM-related competitions, fairs, expositions, camps and STEM education student programs;

§7 (f) Use resources to bring the latest STEM content, 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and hands-on STEM education resources into public education classroom schools;

§7 (h) Identify best practices being used outside the state and, as appropriate, develop and implement selected practices through pilot programs;

§7 (l) As appropriate, join and participate in a national STEM network and collaborate with neighboring states in STEM program development;

## Overall direction:

As per our agreement:

The EcosySTEM members are dedicated to:

- Building awareness of and ensuring access to STEM education opportunities and STEM careers.
- Aligning STEM education with Idaho workforce needs of today and tomorrow.
- Creating successful metrics for STEM education and programming.
- Building STEM momentum within the state and nationally.

### 1. **Please describe how the STEM EcosySTEM has built awareness of and ensured access to STEM education opportunities and STEM careers. \***

#### **Answer Text:**

The Idaho STEM Ecosystem has implemented a multifaceted approach to enhance awareness of and accessibility to STEM education opportunities and careers throughout the state of Idaho. Key initiatives and achievements include:

**IBE Membership Meeting Road Trip:** Conducted visits to seven sites, engaging with over 50 partner organizations and 123 individuals. The EcosySTEM team presented information regarding the EcosySTEM, inviting members to collaborate with hub coordinators and join the Community platform.

**Statewide Interviews:** ISEE STEM Hub Coordinator, Ashley Schaffner was invited to speak on the Inspiring Science Teachers Podcast, a local statewide podcast hosted by West Ada's Science Coordinator, Chris Stoker. Director, Erica Compton, conducted a virtual interview with Ruralite Magazine, speaking about the EcosySTEM's mission, vision, and impact. This interview is scheduled to be released in January 2024.

**Statewide and Regional Meetings:** EcosySTEM team has actively participated in various working groups, leadership committees, and regional/statewide groups to promote STEM education and careers including TMC Shop Talk sessions, ION Policy Workgroup and Steering Committee, Micron Workforce Consortium, and ICfL's Digital Access for All Idahoans statewide call and LITT conversations.

**Conferences:** During the last six months the EcosySTEM has attended, presented at, sponsored, and exhibited at various statewide conferences including ION Power Up Summit, Waypoint, Idaho Library Association, WICON, Idaho School Board Association Conference, East Idaho Tech Summit, CTE Annual Conference, REDI Workforce Connector, STEM Innovation Summit, National Rural Education Forum, and Idaho Association of School Administrators Conference. During these conferences, the EcosySTEM team are actively engaging in conversations providing insight and connection where STEM education and workforce development is needed.

**Community Platform:** The EcosySTEM has launched our Community Platform on HiveBrite to support connection between partners across the state. Since launching the platform in late September, we have had over 300 partners create accounts, averaging 100 new members each month. Within the platform partners can share

STEM news, local events, resources, and additional information to boost awareness of and access to STEM education and careers.

Communications: The EcosySTEM has utilized several avenues to communicate and build awareness of STEM resources, education, and careers: monthly, statewide e-newsletter with over 4,000 subscribers and a 35% open rate; monthly, regional SWISH e-newsletter with 332 subscribers; IBE monthly e-newsletter with 319 subscribers; social media accounts for statewide and regional activities.

## 2. Please describe how the STEM EcosySTEM has aligned STEM Education with Idaho workforce needs of today and tomorrow. \*

### Answer Text:

The EcosySTEM team has demonstrated a commitment to aligning STEM education with the current and future workforce needs of Idaho. Key efforts and outcomes include:

Partnership Engagement: Over the last six months, the team has dedicated over 100 hours to meetings with industry and educational partners to understand workforce needs and identify gaps and solutions. The team has cultivated a robust network of partners including 36 public schools and school districts, 8 PTO/PTA and community organizations, 10 active industry organizations, 10 higher education facilities, 36 out-of-school and non-profit organizations, and all 5 Native American Idaho tribes.

Professional Development: Consistently, our team has heard the need for high quality and comprehensive professional development training for formal and informal educators. We have responded to this demand by continuing the Educator Preparation and Support Working Group, a dedicated group of statewide partners working together to better understand the current professional development landscape and the true needs, gaps, and opportunities within. SWISH Hub Coordinator, ReBekha Lulu, has applied for grant funding through Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation to provide joint professional development for rural educators in Southwest Idaho. ISEE STEM Hub Coordinator, Ashley Schaffner, has worked with Aberdeen School District and Bear Lake School District to support and provide computer science professional development and other STEM educational resources to teachers and administrators. Through the use of the Community Platform, partners are sharing additional resources and PD for educators to participate in such as ACRES Asking Purposeful Questions, Project Learning Tree's Ecosystems Workshop, and STEM Action Center's i-STEM institutes.

Youth Apprenticeship Program: Regionally, Hub Coordinators are working with the Youth Apprenticeship Program regional contacts to support the youth apprentices and employers, many of whom are working in STEM career fields.

## 3. Please describe how the STEM EcosySTEM has built STEM momentum within the state and nationally. \*

**Answer Text:**

The EcosySTEM has proactively contributed to building and sustaining STEM momentum on regional, statewide, and national levels. Notable initiatives and achievements include:

**Community Initiatives:** The EcosySTEM partnered with AT&T and Human-I-T to provide 100 refurbished laptops to Idaho youth in need. Students across the state, including each of the 5 Native American Idaho tribes, received the laptops in October, along with one-year worth of free tech support from Human-I-T. This was part of a national AT&T commitment, Bridge to Possibility, to help address the digital divide by providing communities with connectivity, computers, and digital skills needed for success in school and in life.

**Computer Science Week:** The EcosySTEM team volunteered alongside industry partners to support educators providing Hour of Code activities as part of the Statewide Computer Science Week initiative. Together the team visited 29 classrooms across the state. Program Coordinator, Trisha Mick, hosted a preschool coding activity for 3–5-year-olds alongside their elementary-aged counterparts at Riverside Elementary School.

**STEM Activities:** Previous STEM INNC Hub Coordinator, Susan Stauffer partnered with 44 organizations and 50 volunteers in North Idaho to provide a weeklong Passport to STEM exploration section at the Latah County Fair. SWISH continued their annual STEM Day at the Western Idaho Fair with ten partner organizations providing hands on STEM activities. Boise State University's OnRamp Program hosted their first community STEAM Day event at the Boise Public Library, a vision brought to fruition with the support of Hub Coordinator, ReBekha Lulu. ISEE STEM's Hub Coordinator, Ashley Schaffner supported the annual ISU STEMx conference, visiting every eighth-grade classroom in Pocatello-Chubbuck School District in the week leading up to the conference. For the third year in a row, Ashley also attended a week-long STEM celebration event in Salmon, Idaho, along with regional partners. This event, in its initial year, began with two organizations and has since grown to be a true community-driven event with 5 organizations planning and participating.

**EcosySTEM Convening:** The EcosySTEM team is preparing for the fourth annual EcosySTEM Convening in Nampa, Idaho this spring. This year's theme is "Building a Culture of STEM" and will have a focus on culturally responsive STEM practices and programming.

**National Connections:** The EcosySTEM team is engaged with national groups including STEMx, Wild West Ecosphere, and CSO International Program, contributing to the broader momentum of STEM education and workforce development.

## Programmatic Updates

Please provide a programmatic update and project goals for each of the following supported projects:

### 4. Statewide leadership and coordination of the EcosySTEM and its “hubs” including all EcosySTEM activities \*

**Answer text:**

The initial six months of the successful transition to integrate EcosySTEM into Idaho Business for Education have been dedicated to extensive infrastructure development. As noted in the 90-day workplan report, submitted September 30, all tasks were successfully completed, and metrics met. The team has successfully hired and onboarded SWISH Hub Coordinator, ReBekha Lulu, Program Coordinator, Trisha Mick, and STEM INNC Hub Coordinator, Erin Lanigan. Currently the EcosySTEM is in the process of recruiting a Region 4 Hub Coordinator and a part-time Financial Officer to support internal financial procedures and reimbursements.

Moreover, strategic planning has been a focus, facilitated by external contractors, to ensure the EcosySTEM remains proactive and integral in future STEM education and workforce development opportunities in Idaho. Plans are underway for the development of a robust evaluation plan, with potential collaboration with the PEAR Institute in the coming months.

Infrastructure developments also include the acquisition and establishment of website domains, the Community Platform via HiveBrite, a grants platform via Survey Monkey Apply, social media accounts for statewide and regional initiatives, and an e-newsletter platform via MailChimp.

### 5. Has the EcosySTEM maintained its active membership in the STEM Learning Ecosystems Community of Practice? \*

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### 6. Please describe activity regarding the membership in *STEM Learning Ecosystems Community of Practice* national network \*

**Answer text:**

The EcosySTEM has sustained a presence in national SLECoP meetings, attending monthly Wild West Ecosphere

and STEMx meetings. The team actively promotes national STEM activities such as the National STEM Challenge, Changemakers in STEM Virtual Youth Congress, and the STEM Ecosystem Caliper Survey, where Idaho leads in responses compared to other ecosystems. EcosySTEM Director, Erica Compton, participated in two “the PITCH” webinars, fostering connections with other ecosystem directors and national grant program leaders. Ongoing meetings with TIES partners are centered around NSF ecosystem Funding and collaborating on grant funding initiatives.

## 7. Please describe activity regarding the Idaho Exhibition of Ideas (IDX) \*

### Answer text:

Preparations for the spring 2024 IDX showcase are underway, with events planned at Potlatch School District (North Idaho), Boise State University Micron Center for Materials Research (Southwest Idaho), and Idaho State University Eames Complex (Eastern Idaho). Registration is currently open, with 23 schools registered as of December 15, including 7 junior teams and 16 senior teams. Hub Coordinators are actively recruiting volunteers for judging. The Community Platform is anticipated to be utilized to support communication and connection between and among teams statewide, utilizing the Group module of the platform.

## 8. Please describe activity related to Chief Science Officers (CSO) \*

### Answer text:

The 2023-2024 school year has seen a 23% growth in CSO student participation, with a total of 93 students across 13 sites in Idaho. The Leadership Training Institute (LTI) was co-led by CSOs from Basin School District and American Heritage Charter School in October. This virtual training allows students to learn an overview of the CSO programs, find opportunities to collaborate and share with other students across the state, and brainstorm prompts to launch their leadership goals and action plans. CSOs are required to complete two major assignments throughout the school year: a leadership goal and an action plan. Hub Coordinators maintain an active involvement with CSOs, conducting regular site visits and check-ins.

The EcosySTEM has applied for a grant via American Association of University Women, AAUW, to support an extension of the CSO program, providing female mentorship opportunities between industry and schools. Funding, if awarded, will provide support during the 2024-25 school year.

A few examples of action plans from CSOs:

- Research and packet creation following the physics, statistics, and math behind car crashes to encourage safe driving habits.
- Creation of a STEM Theme Day at their school to bring awareness of STEM to students. Students would be encouraged to dress up based on a STEM theme similar to popular spirit weeks. Guest speakers would be invited to talk about industry and STEM topics.
- Speaking/presentation assignment about the CSO program and STEM at the school's assembly.
- Facilitating a class fieldtrip for younger learners to learn about gears on farm equipment.

## 9. Please describe grants and sponsorships that prioritize matched funds to support STEM Activities, professional development opportunities, and travel grants to support professional development for STEM Educators and student participation. \*

### Answer text:

The initiation and development of the EcosySTEM grant platform has been methodically planned and executed to support STEM activities, professional development opportunities, and travel grants for educators and student participation. The EcosySTEM will be providing grants on a rolling basis with four rounds in our first fiscal year. Round 1 grants are currently in the review period and awards are expected to be announced December 22, with agreements signed and returned mid-January. Included in the Mid-Year Data spreadsheet is a tab that includes all anticipated grants awarded and any requests denied.

Currently, the EcosySTEM is unable to provide matching funds for grant applications due to the current constraints of our budget but are strategically focusing on cultivating robust collaborations and prioritizing grants with strong partnerships, recognizing the value of time, talent, and treasure in collaborative efforts. This emphasis is reflected in the grant rubric, where additional points are allocated for such partnerships. Notably, two key partners, INL and ION, have expressed the significance of matching funds. To address this, the EcosySTEM has undertaken a proactive approach by engaging in individual meetings with INL and ION. Through these conversations, the EcosySTEM is seeking innovative solutions to support and strengthen our collaborative partnership on a case-by-case basis within the limitations of the available grant funding.

The EcosySTEM was able to provide, through IBE's Idaho Community Foundation Fund, \$3,000 to Gizmo to support operations of their fabrication machines. The Idaho Community Foundation Fund is used to promote and provide technology for students.

## 10. Please describe the EcosySTEM's outreach and best practice research aligned with STEM AC priority areas \*

### Answer text:

The EcosySTEM is deeply committed to comprehensive STEM outreach and best practice research, aligning with STEM AC priority areas. Hub coordinators play a pivotal role in fostering STEM engagement within their respective regions, undertaking diverse activities to maximize impact. The outreach initiatives are extensive. Below is a snapshot of key activities and involvement in each region:

STEM INNC: Hub Coordinator, Erin Lanigan's participation in the Nez Perce Tribe's 14<sup>th</sup> annual STEM Fair in Lapwai, Idaho is a testament to the EcosySTEM's commitment to diverse and inclusive outreach. By actively engaging with tribal communities, the EcosySTEM ensures that STEM opportunities are inclusive and reach all corners of the state.

SWISH: Hub Coordinator, ReBekha Lulu has been at the forefront of STEM engagement in Southwest Idaho. Notable events including hosting multiple STEM activities at community events such as the LEGO store grand opening in Meridian, the Gowen Thunder Airshow, and the Children's Museum of Idaho Space Day event. These engagements not only showcase the excitement of STEM but also provide high-quality hands-on experiences to a wide audience and connect community members together in a shared interest.

ISEE STEM: Hub Coordinator, Ashley Schaffner's involvement in a multitude of school and community STEM events demonstrates a comprehensive approach to outreach and best practices. From the Kind Community Kick-Off event to the Teton Boy Scouts Council Office STEM-A-RAMA, North Canyon College and Career Fair, and Aberdeen STEM Night, Ashley's diverse engagements highlight the EcosySTEM's commitment to reaching different age groups and communities.

These activities represent just a fraction of the EcosySTEM's extensive outreach efforts. Furthermore, every meeting the EcosySTEM team hosts or joins serves as an opportunity to gather crucial information about partner needs, preferences, and areas of interest. This iterative feedback loop ensures that the EcosySTEM remains responsive to the evolving landscape of STEM education and workforce development in Idaho.

The highlight of these efforts is the annual EcosySTEM Convening, scheduled for April 2024 in Nampa, Idaho. This event will not only serve as a platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange but will also emphasize equity and inclusion. The Convening's theme, "Building a Culture of STEM," underscores the EcosySTEM's commitment to cultivating a diverse, inclusive, and culturally responsive STEM community in Idaho, strengthening education and workforce development.

## Materials and Cross-Promotion



Please describe and provide examples of the STEM EcosySTEM's promotion of the use of:

### 11. i-STEM Libraries \*

**Answer text:**

Regional Hub Coordinators consistently leverage and advocate for i-STEM Libraries during their outreach event and partner meetings, facilitating educators' access to targeted and valuable resources. AT ION's Power Up Summit STEM Expo, Hub Coordinator ReBekha Lulu hosted an engaging activity table, showcasing items from the Western i-STEM Library and provided insights on accessing and utilizing these resources during out-of-school events. The EcosySTEM team remains committed to highlighting i-STEM Libraries as a valuable asset, with future plans to integrate them into the Spring IDX Showcases, offering hands-on activities for youth during these events. The Eastern Idaho showcase, hosted at ISU, will further provide educators with the opportunity to explore the i-STEM Library in person.

### 12. ION's Think Make Create Trailers \*

**Answer text:**

Hub Coordinators actively promote and integrate TMC Labs and resources into their outreach events and partner engagements, facilitating educators' access to tailored and beneficial resources. Hub Coordinators often foster connections between community partners and TMC Lab hosts to encourage ongoing collaboration. The presence of TMC Labs at EcosySTEM events, such as the Western Idaho Fair and Passport to STEM at the Latah County Fair, underscores the team's commitment to the TMC project. Erica Compton and Trisha Mick regularly participate in TMC Lab Leadership Meetings and collaboration with ION staff and U of I 4-H representatives, while Hub Coordinators regularly attend TMC Shop Talk sessions, contributing to the overall success of the TMC initiative. EcosySTEM's commitment to the promotion and use of TMC Labs is further evident through regular postings on the Community Platform and resharing via social media. Like i-STEM Libraries, TMC Trailers will be prominently featured during the upcoming IDX Showcases.

### 13. Please describe any distribution of materials related to STEM AC programs. \*

**Answer text:**

The EcosySTEM team consistently advocates for and distributes STEM AC materials and programs at outreach events, conferences, and partner meetings, facilitating educators' and community members' access to pertinent resources. During outreach events and partner meetings, Hub Coordinators encourage partners to participate in i-STEM Institutes, apply for STEM Externships, and volunteer during Hour of Code classroom visits. Hub Coordinators are actively supporting communication to partners regarding the changes to the Idaho Science and Engineering Fairs, encouraging participation from classrooms across the State to ensure the Fair's success despite unexpected changes. Idaho Makers for Equity and Beauty and the Beak resources are posted to the Idaho EcosySTEM's main website and Community Platform. During conference exhibits, the team actively engages with attendees, providing information on Idaho Connect, Learning Blade, i-STEM Libraries, STEM School Designation, and STEM Diplomas. A noteworthy collaboration occurred at the Waypoint Conference in Boise, where Katie Bosch-Wilson and Erica Compton shared STEM resources during a joint presentation. Regular promotion of STEM AC and its programs are key features on the Community Platform, social media channels, and monthly e-newsletters.

### 14. What other programs is the EcosySTEM promoting?

**Answer text:**

Utilizing a variety of communication channels, including the Community Platform, social media, monthly e-newsletters, meetings, presentations, conference exhibits, and outreach events, the EcosySTEM team consistently champions partner materials and programs. Beyond the previously mentioned initiatives, the team actively promotes a diverse array of materials, including but not limited to: Youth Apprenticeship Program, Idaho Connect, National STEM Challenge, W.IN Events including SheTech and TechGirlz, FIRST Robotics, Idaho LAUNCH, Hispanic Youth Leadership Summit, Invent Idaho, BSU's Partner in Science Program for secondary science teachers, Inspiring Science Teachers podcast, Million Girls Moonshot 2024 Flight Crew opportunities, Project Learning Tree professional development opportunities and student competitions, PCS Edventures resources, LEGO educational resources, additional grant opportunities for educators, volunteer opportunities, and much more.

## General Questions

### 15. Please articulate how you are using, developing, and/or researching best practices and tools? \*

**Answer text:**

Every meeting the EcosySTEM team hosts or joins serves as an opportunity to gather crucial information about partner needs, preferences, and areas of interest, thereby ensuring our responsiveness to the dynamic landscape of STEM education and workforce development in Idaho. The EcosySTEM team is proactive in attending conferences and webinars, fostering reciprocal learning and knowledge-sharing with STEM professionals both within and outside Idaho. Examples include Crosscutting Concepts Professional Development hosted by ISTA and SDE and STEMconnector's Webinar: The Power of Partnerships with Minority Serving Institution. Notably, Program Coordinator Trisha Mick participates in a statewide Early Childhood STEM Education Working Group, contributing to the creation of 24-additional hours of professional development for early childhood educators specifically focused on STEM education for ages 0-5. The Educator Preparation Working Group has continued to meet monthly, focusing on researching and understanding the professional development wants and opportunities for Idaho educators and finding concrete ways to support the needs of formal and informal educators.

Recognizing the importance of fostering a robust community of practice, the EcosySTEM carefully researched and chose HiveBrite platform to host its Community Platform. This secure space empowers partners to connect, exchange strategies, share passions, and contribute to the growth of STEM education in Idaho. Additionally, to ensure the EcosySTEM remains proactive and integral to the future of STEM education and workforce development, the team is engaged in an extensive strategic planning process facilitated by external contractors and a forthcoming robust evaluation plan, potentially in collaboration with PEAR Institute.

### 16. Please describe best practices the EcosySTEM has identified outside of the state and how they are being incorporated into program delivery, and include practices, promotion, and results. \*

**Answer text:**

The EcosySTEM's commitment to excellence extends beyond state borders. Collaborative efforts with the PEAR institute for future evaluation projects highlights our dedication to staying at the forefront of best practices. Additionally, Idaho leads in participation in the National STEM Ecosystem's Caliper survey, emphasizing the EcosySTEM's commitment to measuring success in STEM learning ecosystems. Regular attendance at national meetings with STEMx, Wild West Ecosphere, and CSO International programs facilitates knowledge exchange, with

the acquired insights shared consistently with Idaho partners. CSO International recently reached out to the EcosySTEM to share success stories of our program with new or interested CSO sites across the nation. Similarly, Erin Lanigan recently attended the National Rural Education Association Conference and has been using key insights from the 2023 Why Rural Matters report to support work around the state.

**17. Please describe any collaborations with neighboring states. \***

**Answer text:**

The EcosySTEM actively collaborates with neighboring states to amplify our impact. Regular attendance at Wild West Ecosphere meetings fosters continued connections. EcosySTEM Director, Erica Compton's discussions with Learning Ecosystems Northeast, located in Maine and upstate New York, and Utah STEM Action Center Director, Tamara Goetz, exemplify the cross-state collaboration efforts. Furthermore, EcosySTEM has begun participating in a TIES-sponsored NSF grant with other ecosystems, highlighting our commitment to working alongside ecosystems nationwide.

**18. Please describe how the STEM EcosySTEM has introduced research-based methods that support student achievements in STEM areas. \***

**Answer text:**

There is substantial research indicating a positive correlation between student success in school and life and hands-on learning methods, particularly those that replicate real-world, problem-based scenarios. The EcosySTEM has effectively forged collaborations with partners across the state to implement hands-on learning activities for students. While Hub Coordinators often take the lead in initiating STEM activities, the ultimate objective is to demonstrate the tangible benefits of hands-on learning, fostering a continued commitment from educators and community members beyond the Hub Coordinator's involvement.

One illustrative success happened in Salmon, Idaho. In 2020, ISEE STEM Hub Coordinator, Ashley Schaffner, in collaboration with partner Angie Miller from Idaho Power Company, conducted a tour of Salmon, introducing hands-on STEM activities to the students in the public school. Following Ashley's guidance, the initiative expanded in the subsequent years with the inclusion of one more partner, Idaho Public Television. By its third year, the community took proactive steps in engaging with Ashley, initiating the planning stages well before her outreach. During this last year, five community partners, involving eight individuals, orchestrated a comprehensive week-long STEM appreciation program.

Emulating the successful partnership model established by SWISH at the Western Idaho Fair, STEM INNC Hub Coordinator, Susan Stauffer, pioneered a week-long hands-on exhibit named "Passport to STEM" at the Latah County Fair. This initiative allowed students to participate in over twenty free STEM activities while attending the fair, fostering an immersive and accessible learning experience.

**19. Please describe opportunities where the STEM AC was able to address the EcosySTEM membership. \***

**Answer text:**

The partnership between STEM Action Center and EcosySTEM has remained strong during the last six months, with multiple opportunities for the two organizations to work together, addressing challenges and needs. Early in the transition, STEM Action Center and EcosySTEM teams held two

virtual webinars (September 1 and August 9) to address the changes, answer direct questions from partners, and engage in conversations about the future needs of our state. Since then, Katie Bosch-Wilson has presented alongside EcosySTEM staff at two conferences: Idaho Association of School Administrators and Waypoint Conference. Katie Bosch-Wilson and former STEM AC staff, John McFarlane, have been active participants at multiple EcosySTEM and partner meetings while Katy Solace and Crispin Gravatt have participated in the EcosySTEM convening planning meetings, further reinforcing the collaborative spirit and address the evolving needs of the EcosySTEM membership.

**20. Please describe the opportunities STEM AC will have to address the EcosySTEM membership in the following two quarters.\***

**Answer text:**

The EcosySTEM anticipates and welcomes ongoing collaboration with STEM AC in the coming months. Opportunities for engagement include future conference exhibits, promotion through the Community platform, and active participation in partner/hub meetings. Additionally, the STEM Action Center will be prominently featured during the upcoming 2024 EcosySTEM Convening in April, ensuring continued dialogue and collaboration.

# Representation and Sharing

*The awardee shall use the language "Founding Member" when referring to the relationship between STEM AC and the Idaho EcosySTEM. Awardee shall ensure STEM AC is recognized as a "Founding Member" on all relevant public-facing communications, including but not limited to: press releases, public marketing, websites, communications, fliers, social media, presentations, swag, attire, and at any EcosySTEM events, etc.*

SEE QUESTION 26

## Budget

21. **How much has the EcosySTEM expended to date? \***

Estimated through December 30, 2023, is \_\_\_\_\$452,000

22. **How much does the EcosySTEM anticipate expending through June 30, 2023? \***

**Answer text:**

The EcosySTEM anticipates spending approximately \$975,000 by June 30, 2024.

23. **Please email a spreadsheet that includes:**

- Total funding awarded through grants
- A List of awards made
- Amounts of awards
- Matches of awards
- The Intended Outcomes for each grant
- Metrics that will be collected from each grant including: demographics, numbers served, and newly discovered best practices

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**Answer text:**

Please see attached spreadsheet Mid-Year Data Jul-Dec 2023.

## Data

Please send via an email an excel file with the following information:

- *EcosySTEM **Membership numbers by group** (PreK-12, higher education, out-of-school education, industry, nonprofits, state and local government agencies, parents, and the legislature), and by region (based on Idaho's six regions).*
- *IDX team participation information **by showcase location and age level***
- *CSO program data including **student growth, outreach, and activities or events***
- *Number of interactions with **students and educators (list separately) outlined by programmatic area***
- *Results from surveys of programs and members including quantitative and qualitative data*
- *A list per HUB on: **Events and/or activities***

### Answer text:

Please see attached spreadsheet Mid-Year Data Jul-Dec 2023.

### 24. Please give us the appropriate information to highlight a brightspot from the EcosySTEM's work (no graphics-or design work - just the content). \*

#### STEM INNC: PASSPORT TO STEM – LATAH COUNTY FAIR

Recognized for bringing together partners with shared STEM interest, Idaho North and North Central STEM Ecosystem (STEM INNC) was asked and agreed to lead the coordination of a new large STEM focus at the 2023 Latah County Fair September 14-17. More than 20 STEM INNC partners who are based in or reach into Latah County brought hands-on STEM to the Palouse for all ages. An additional 25 partners provided resources about their programs. Participants were able to engage in hands-on STEM activities as a free bonus for their fair attendance this year! Read more at: <https://klewTV.com/news/local/passport-to-stem-at-the-latah-co-fair>

#### ISEE STEM: SALMON STEM WEEK

Regional Hub Coordinator Ashley Schaffner teamed up with the Lemhi County University of Idaho Extension Office, Salmon Public Library, Idaho Power, and Computer Zen to bring STEM Week to the Salmon School District (all students PreK- 12), FernWaters Charter School (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade), Tendoy School (all students K-5), and Leadore School District (all students K-12). Students had the opportunity to explore energy related topics such as solar energy, simple circuits, electrical safety, wind generation, potential and kinetic energy, and much more.

#### SWISH: ONRAMP COMMUNITY STEAM DAY

Boise State University's Onramp Program is an innovative program engaging Idaho students with technology and with their community. Onramp supports educators by helping integrate creative projects and coding into curriculum and by providing opportunities for fun, meaningful projects in classrooms, libraries, and after-school programs. Onramp hosted their very first Community STEAM Day on October 19 at the Boise Public Library in collaboration with SWISH Hub Coordinator, ReBekha Lulu. The event was a huge success, bringing in 174 students and their parents who explored hands on STEM and coding activities tied to the theme of "Storytelling." After the student event, Onramp and SWISH cohosted an afterhours networking event, bringing together 30 partners in the Southwest region to connect and learn more about the EcosySTEM, Onramp, and Hackfort.

#### STATEWIDE: AT&T EVENT

The EcosySTEM partnered with AT&T and Human-I-T to provide 100 refurbished laptops to Idaho youth in need. Students across the state, including each of the 5 Native American Idaho tribes, received the laptops in October, along with one-year worth of free tech support from Human-I-T. This was part of a national AT&T commitment, Bridge to Possibility, to help address the digital divide by providing communities with connectivity, computers, and digital skills needed for success in school and in life.

Read more: <https://idahobusinessreview.com/2023/10/17/program-to-help-provide-100-laptops-to-idaho-students/>

# Materials

*The awardee shall use the language “Founding Member” when referring to the relationship between STEM AC and the Idaho EcosySTEM. Awardee shall ensure STEM AC is recognized as a “Founding Member” on all relevant public-facing communications, including but not limited to: press releases, public marketing, websites, communications, fliers, social media, presentations, swag, attire, and at any EcosySTEM events, etc.*

## 25. Please describe and send samples via email how and where the STEM Action Center was referred to in the Idaho EcosySTEM’s materials, events, and online presence. \*

### Answer text:

The STEM Action Center has been recognized as the Founding Member of the EcosySTEM, with the corresponding logo displayed if applicable, in multiple locations including:

- EcosySTEM website: idahostem.org
- Community Platform:
  - Public Page: community.idahostem.org
  - Welcome Page: community.idahostem.org/page/welcome
- IBE Website: idahobe.org/ecosystem/ (currently work in progress)
- EcosySTEM monthly e-newsletter: idahostem.org/newsletter/
- **Press Release announcing transition of the EcosySTEM to IBE**
- Social Media: All statewide accounts reference STEMAC as a founding member, and if available link to STEMAC’s account.
- Formal presentation slide decks, including IBE Board and Executive committee meetings, IBE Membership meetings, etc.



Idaho Business for Education (IBE) is the host for the EcosySTEM. IBE is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) and is a group of more than 250 business leaders across the state. It seeks to create the highly-educated and skilled workforce Idaho employers need for businesses to thrive in the 21st century. IBE strives to be a driving force in the development of an Idaho education system that results in graduates who have post-secondary credentials and are workforce ready. Visit [idahobe.org](http://idahobe.org) for more details.



Idaho STEM Ecosystem  
 Located at Idaho Business for Education  
 877 W. Main Street, Suite 706, Boise, ID 83702



Idaho STEM Action Center,  
 Founding Member of the Idaho STEM Ecosystem.



