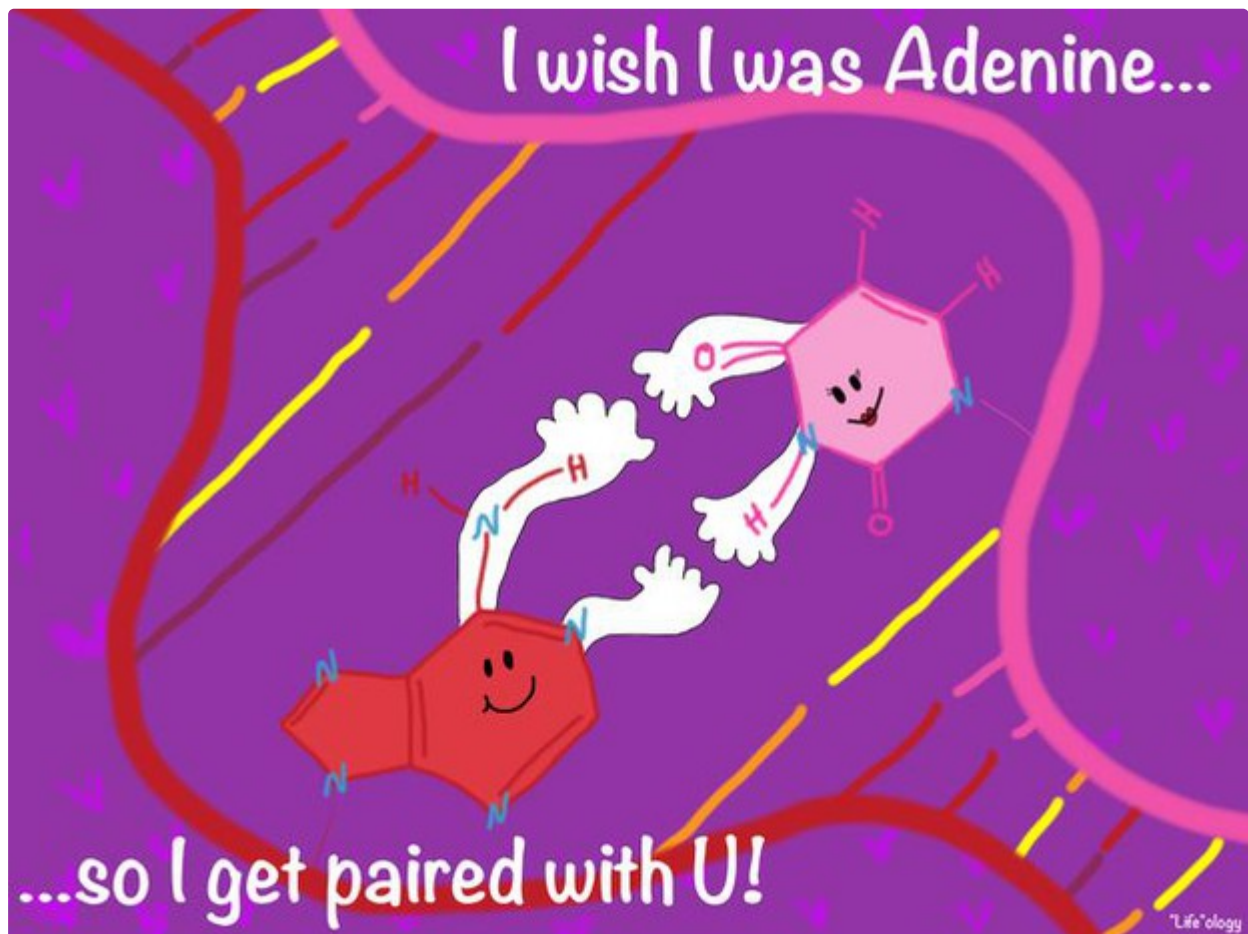


A Moment of Science from ISTA

Idaho Science Teaching Association President's Newsletter

February 2023



A Word (or two) From Your ISTA President!

Our year is off to a fast and furious start. I have been keeping my eye on the legislative action in Boise but so far, they have been focused on other areas and have not really spent much time talking about science or science standards. If you are looking for a good legislative action update blog to follow, consider bookmarking Jonathan Oppenheimer's [Idaho Conservation League Legislative Update](#). He has his fingers on the pulse of anything sciency happening at the capitol building!

Our ISTA board has been busy planning for our fall professional development conference which will be held August 3rd and 4th at Borah High School in Boise. We have partnered with the Idaho Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the Idaho Environmental Educators Association to put on a spectacular PD opportunity for Idaho STEM educators so mark your calendar! We are about ready to start calling for presentation proposals and will be opening early bird registration soon. We are also about ready to announce our 2 keynote speakers and they are off the hook! This will be the PD experience of the year so stay tuned to this newsletter and our Facebook page for updates!

ISTA's busy and dedicated board will be meeting later this week to continue working on building action steps into the 5 year strategic plan that we worked on at our December board training. I hope to have a draft copy ready to preview to our membership soon!

Have a fantastic February and thanks for all that you do for Idaho students and science education!

A promotional poster for 'LEGO STEM Day'. The background is a collage of colorful LEGO bricks. The text 'LEGO® STEM DAY' is prominently displayed in large, bold, black letters. To the left, it says 'FREE ADMISSION'. Below the main text, there are two circular inset photos: one showing a man and a child working together, and another showing two women building with LEGO. At the bottom left, there is a calendar icon with the number '4' on it. Below the calendar, the text reads 'SATURDAY AT 10 AM - 4 PM', 'Lego STEM Day', and 'Jordan Ballroom at BSU'.

4

LEGO® STEM DAY

FREE ADMISSION

SATURDAY AT 10 AM - 4 PM

Lego STEM Day

Jordan Ballroom at BSU

Lego STEM Day at Boise State University

Come join the Idaho Lego Users Group for a day of FREE and FUN Science and Engineering experiences using Lego Bricks! Activities will include Bridge and Tower building, interactive demonstrations, challenges based on scientific principles and a free building area



Idaho Science & Aerospace Scholars - Teacher Mentors

Idaho teachers: we need mentors for our Idaho Science and Aerospace Scholars (ISAS) program! We are searching for certified Idaho science, technology, engineering, or mathematics teachers to serve as Teacher Mentors during each of two weeklong summer academies for ISAS students. Selected teachers will receive a \$3,000 stipend. Find out more and apply here by Feb. 26:

<https://www.sde.idaho.gov/academic/isas/>

ISAS is a competitive program administered by the Idaho State Department of Education that inspires high school juniors to explore degrees and careers in STEM fields through a NASA-developed online course. After completing the online course, the top 80 ISAS students are invited to a 7-day summer academy held at Boise State University and the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. During the summer academies, two separate groups of student scholars will work in teams with Idaho STEM professionals and NASA engineers to develop a simulated mission to Mars. Teacher mentors will be needed for each ISAS summer academy. The first runs July 9-15, 2023, and the second from July 23-29.



Educator Resources

Idaho State Department of Education Science Educator Resources

The Idaho State Department of Education has updated their educator resources page for science. Check it out and bookmark this site as a great place to find science information for Idaho educators!

<https://www.sde.idaho.gov/.../sci.../educator-resources.html>



NOAA Fisheries Service - Deep Sea Coral Program

NOAA's Deep Sea Coral Program website just got a major makeover, with a new layout and lots of info on deep-sea corals and sponges. Come check it out!

<https://deepseacoraldata.noaa.gov>



Idaho STEM Action Center's Educator Externship Program

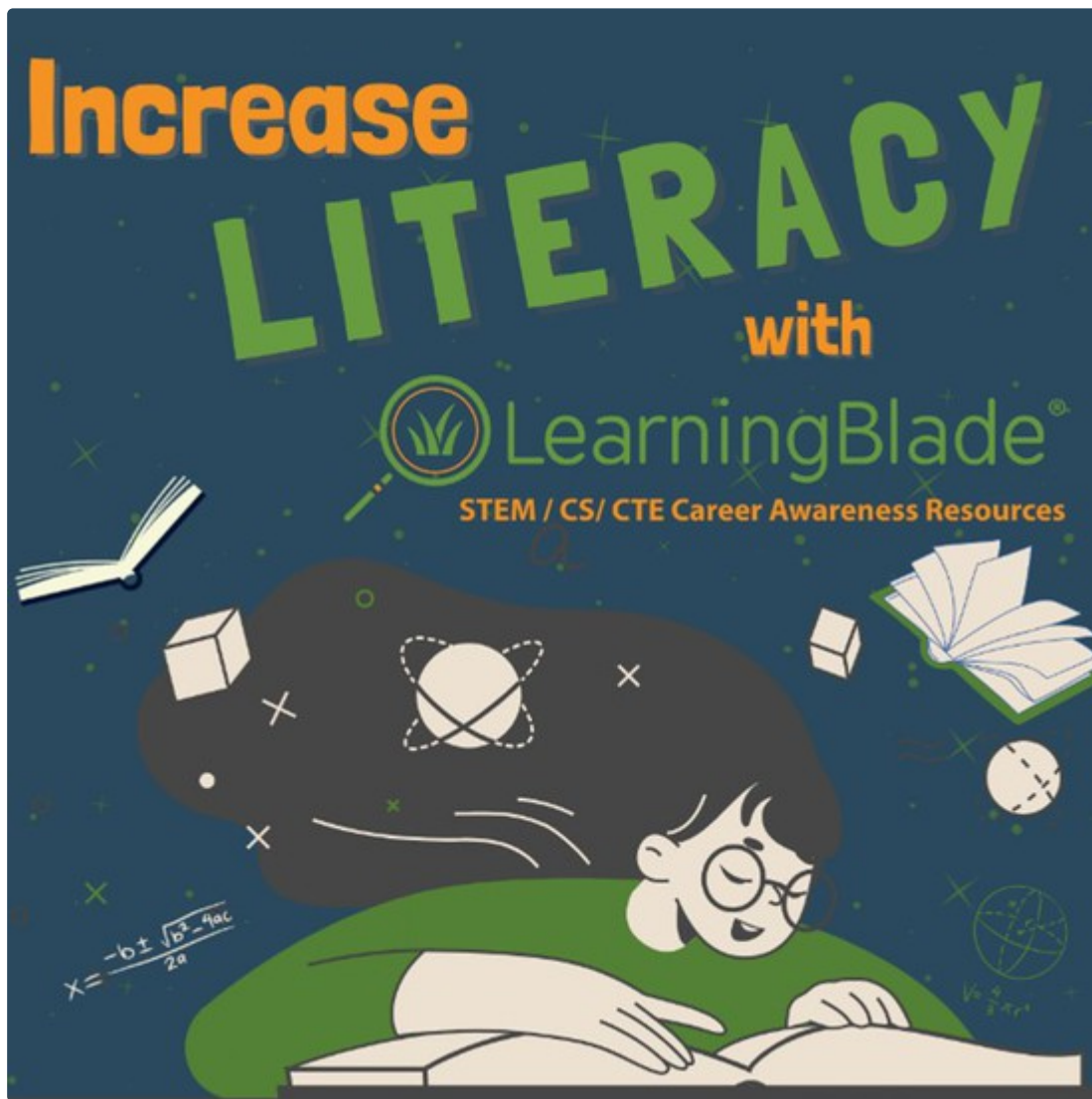
Application to the Extern Program for industry and educators is OPEN!

The STEMAC is seeking businesses to host an extern and educators to participate in our STEM-azing Extern Program.

The STEM Action Center and Idaho Workforce Development Council, in partnership with Micron Technology, are expanding the Educator Externship Program! The expansion will provide the opportunity for more educators to work at an Idaho employer where they gain valuable industry experience and knowledge, helping them better prepare students for the world of work.

The program places externs with employers and requires them to complete 200 hours of on-site, experiential learning. Participants earn \$5,000 and have the opportunity to earn free professional development credit.

The applications close on February 10th so Apply NOW! For more information and to apply please go to: <https://stem.idaho.gov/apply/stem-externships>



Increase Literacy with the Learning Blade Cross-Curricular Lessons!

Looking for ready-to-use informational text-based lessons? Try Learning Blade's standards-aligned STEM/CS/CTE lessons! Encourage your students to read across the disciplinary silos while exposing them to STEM technologies and careers.

Each Learning Blade online lesson is a bite-sized 10–15-minute reading activity. The informational text passages are designed to challenge students while exposing them to real-world problem solvers. There is a machine reader audio track on every page to support your students learning STEM-rich disciplinary vocabulary.

Sign up for your free account – here: <https://www.learningblade.com/solutions>



World Center for Birds of Prey - Family Field Trip Weekends

CHILDREN'S ADMISSION IS FREE on Family Field Trip Weekends, January 21-22 and February 25-26!! Fight winter cabin fever by visiting the World Center for Birds of Prey with the whole family. Enjoy getting nose-to-beak at an open house style event. Come dressed to enjoy indoor and outdoor exhibits, habitat restoration trails, the Archives of Falconry, and family-oriented presentations and crafts throughout the day. Curator of Education, Curtis Evans, and Raptor Specialist, Kelsey Tatton, are working with Marshall, the Center's Golden Eagle, during one of our scheduled bird presentations, which are set for 10:30am, 12:00pm, 1:30pm, 3:00pm. Encounters with birds-on-the-glove occur at almost anytime! Join us for a fun, economical day!!

(Photos Jeffrey McElwee)

Science Saves Scholarship Video 2022 - Michael Wilson #ScienceSaves



Science Saves Video Scholarship Contest

The Center for Inquiry is pleased to announce the #ScienceSaves High School Video Scholarship for College-Bound High School Seniors!

All our lives have been improved by the discoveries of science. Describe an experience in your life that demonstrates that science does indeed save. The experience can be something that happened to you or someone you know.

Create a 20-30 second video answering the question *“What has science done for me?”* or *“What has science done for somebody I know?”* You will be judged on your ability to highlight how science saves in a succinct, creative way with original photos, video clips, and text. Be sure to add #ScienceSaves to your video.

Upload your video below no later than midnight on May 8, 2023. Visit <https://sciencesaves.org/scholarship/> for more details!




GIZMO MAKERSPACE PRESENTS:





PEERS WITH STEM CAREERS

EXPLORE YOUR INTERESTS, SKILLS, AND VALUES WITH OUR LOCAL PEERS!

Are you ready to get inspired? Learn about different careers by meeting with STEM professionals in the area! Starting Thursday, February 16th, high school and college students are invited to explore STEM pathways and careers!



These FREE career talks allow anyone to learn about the wide diversity of STEM professions by hearing from experts in those fields. In each session there will be a peer to talk about their career and how they got there.

LEARN MORE BELOW AND AT WWW.GIZMO-CDA.ORG

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT: ALAYNA@GIZMO-CDA.ORG

Peers with STEM Careers

Are you interested in the STEM field as a profession, but there are too many paths to choose from? Join Gizmo Coeur D'Alene for their new FREE program, Peers with STEM Careers, to learn more about different professions, fields, and day-to-day work of a profession you are interested in. At Peers with STEM Careers, high school and college students can communicate with our peers about what it's like to work in a particular field and get advice on how to get there.

We welcome all ages of students interested in STEM careers. However, if you are under the age of 14, you will need to be accompanied by a parent.

Our first event will be Thursday, February 16 from 6:30-7:30pm. Stay tuned for topic and speaker announcements!

Enjoy an evening at the zoo, sans students!

Join us for this free event
Thursday, March 9th
5:30PM - 7:30PM
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Active teachers, informal educators, and support staff (plus a 18+ non-teacher guest)
More info & registration:
tinyurl.com/zooboiseENO

ZOOBOISE
Conservation • Education • Recreation

Educator's Night Out - Zoo Boise

Zoo Boise is excited to host a night exclusively for educators & support staff. Teachers can enjoy a night at the zoo, sans students! After hours at the zoo brings out crepuscular & nocturnal animals you may not have seen before.

Thursday, March 9th 5:30 - 7:30PM

Join us for this free event that will showcase Zoo Boise's many programs, both here at the Zoo and those that can be brought to you and your students. During this event, we will showcase different activities teachers can complete in their classrooms as well as ways to make the most out of zoo field trips, outreach, and just local resources.

We ask for people to pre-register to help us plan for the event: <https://tinyurl.com/zooboiseENO> and this link includes all of the event info, plus a couple questions (should take no more than a minute or two).

System ...
Add a description...

Make connections between the nodes with the line tool in the upper right.

The diagram illustrates the Earth system with various components and their interactions. Key elements include:

- Solar radiation**: Represented by a sun icon.
- Precipitation**: Represented by a cloud icon.
- Air temperature**: Represented by a thermometer icon.
- Water cycle**: Represented by a circular arrow icon.
- Sea level rise**: Represented by a rising water level icon.
- Burning of fossil fuels**: Represented by a factory icon.
- Volcanism**: Represented by a volcano icon.

SELECT A CATEGORY

CAUSES OF CHANGE

HOW THE EARTH SYSTEM WORKS

MEASURABLE CHANGES

- Agricultural activities
- Deforestation
- Distribution of continents & oceans
- Earth's spin, tilt & orbit
- Fishing & hunting
- Freshwater use

NOAA's Understanding Climate Change Interactive

Teaching Climate? The Understanding Global Change Interactive module allows students and educators to build models that explain how the Earth system works.

<https://www.climate.gov/teaching/resources/understanding-global-change-interactive>

NORTHWEST RADON POSTER CONTEST

January is Radon Action Month. This poster contest serves to raise awareness of harmful effects of elevated indoor radon levels and promote testing and mitigation of radon gas.

WHAT IS RADON?

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can buildup in our homes. Both old and new housing can have radon problems. Testing is the only way to know if your home has radon because it is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Long-term radon exposure is the number one cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers and the second-leading cause of lung cancer in smokers.

HOW TO ENTER

Find contest submission forms, lesson plans, and rules [here](#).

First, second, and third place winners will be selected from each state (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington). A regional grand prize will be selected from the winning submissions.

The first-place posters from each state will be submitted to the 2024 National Radon Poster Contest. All participating students will learn about radon and how to reduce their risk of exposure.



Scan the QR code or click [here](#) for more information and how to enter.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Friday,
March 10, 2023
11:59pm

PRIZES

1st Place \$100
2nd Place \$75
3rd Place \$50
Regional Grand Prize
\$300

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

9 - 14 years of age
living in Idaho,
Oregon,
and Washington

CONTEST DATES

January 10, 2023 -
March 10, 2023

WINNING POSTERS
WILL BE FEATURED
ON WEBSITES,
SOCIAL MEDIA,
AND BILLBOARDS!

SPONSORED BY

Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
Environmental Health Program, Oregon Health Authority
Radon Awareness Program, Washington Department of Health
Radon Program, Nez Perce Tribe Air Quality Program, Spokane Tribe of Indians
Air Quality Program in collaboration with the Northwest Radon Coalition
and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10



Northwest Radon Poster Contest

January was Radon Action Month. Students across the Northwest are encouraged to get creative and raise awareness about the dangers of radon gas by participating in the 2023 Northwest Radon Poster Contest.

Youth between the ages of 9 and 14 living in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington are eligible to participate in the poster contest. Students must either be enrolled in a public, private, territorial, tribal, home school, or be a member of a sponsoring club, such as a scouting, art, computer, science, or 4-H club. Only one entry per student is allowed. Contest submission forms, lesson plans, and rules can be found [here](#). Contest deadline is March 10, 2023, at 11:59pm. Winners will be announced by April 17, 2023. First, second, and third place winners will be selected from each state (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington). Idaho will have a 1st place winner \$100, 2nd place winner \$75, and 3rd place winner \$50.

A regional grand prize, worth \$300, will be selected from the winning submissions. First-place posters from each state will be submitted to the 2024 National Radon Poster Contest. All participating students will learn about radon and how to reduce their risk of exposure.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can buildup in our homes. Both old and new housing can have radon problems. Testing is the only way to know if your home has radon because it is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Long-term radon exposure is the number one cause of lung

cancer in nonsmokers and the second-leading cause of lung cancer in smokers. IDHW has curricula available for teachers' use in class rooms.

The Northwest Radon Poster Contest is sponsored by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare—Environmental Health Program, Nez Perce Tribe Air Quality Program, Oregon Health Authority—Radon Awareness Program, Spokane Tribe of Indians—Air Quality Program, and Washington Department of Health—Radon Program in collaboration with the Northwest Radon Coalition (northwestradoncoalition.com) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10.

Poster Contest info and resources can be found here: <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/northwest-radon-poster-contest>



An Environment of Hope

All 6-12 Idaho teachers are invited to apply to the Idaho Humanities Council annual summer teacher institute!

July 24-28, 2023 THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

Participants receive a \$250 stipend and all expenses paid.

The humanities offer us an opportunity to understand the past in order to reshape the future. We live during a time of tremendous environmental challenges. This historic moment requires a deeper understanding of what it means to be human to help us tackle these challenges and rapidly chart new ways forward. The humanities disciplines—literature, history, philosophy, religion, sociology, and more—have developed approaches to illuminate the complex human relationships to the planet.

Why do we continue to pollute when we understand that such behavior contributes to global climate change? What kinds of responses to climate change and other forms of environmental degradation are occurring and how can cultural texts—films, literature, music—help us to react? What are the historical reasons for unequal access to natural resources and unequal exposure to environmental risk?

This institute will explore these and other questions using a variety of cutting-edge approaches to the environmental humanities. The goal of this institute is to empower teachers with knowledge, tools and resources, and connections with teachers across the state.

For more information and to apply, visit us at www.idahohumanities.org
Applications are due by March 12th, 2023.



STEM Innovation with The National WWII Museum

Amazing opportunity! This year the The National WWII Museum is hosting two weeks of seminars for teachers of science and STEM on-site at The National WWII Museum in New Orleans. The first week (July 2 to will be open to teachers of K–8th grade science. The second week (July 16 to 22) will be open to teachers of 6th–12th grade science. Expenses are paid by the museum.

Learn more and apply here: <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/students-teachers/educator-resources/professional-development/stem-innovation>

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