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December 2018 Newsletter



BOEING GRANTS UTAH STEM FOUNDATION \$75K

Salt Lake City—Boeing has announced that it is granting the Utah STEM Foundation \$75,000 to support the Utah STEM Action Center (STEM AC) in launching the “Utah STEM Collective Impact” study.

“We are ecstatic about Boeing’s level of commitment to STEM education in the State of Utah,” said Allison Spencer, director of the Utah STEM Foundation.

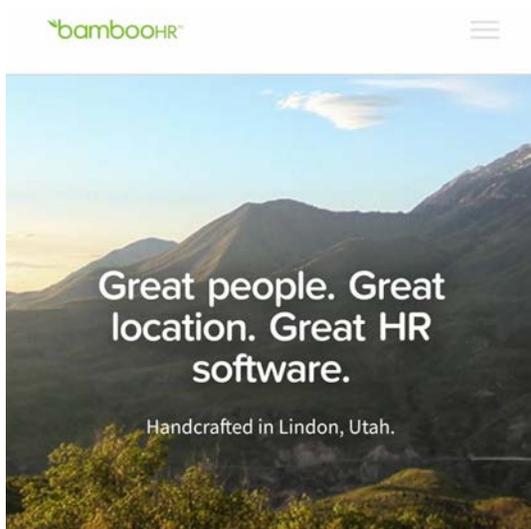
“Boeing has been an industry champion, working with many key stakeholders to assess the effectiveness of our efforts in STEM education and talent development.”

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STEM NEWS



This month marked the official launch of CS4Utah, a statewide partnership to unify a number of existing efforts to promote and support K-12 computer science education. The initiative includes representatives from the STEM Action Center, Utah State Board of Education, Talent Ready Utah, Utah Education Network, Utah Afterschool Network, K-12 teacher organizations, higher education, and industry. Current efforts include the development of an online community for teachers, a grants program, and finalizing a landscape report to better understand the current state of CS education in the state. Look for stories in future newsletters about the amazing work schools and teachers are doing to share computing with their students!



Bamboo HR Supports STEM

Bamboo HR reached its historic first 10-year anniversary. The team celebrated by giving \$10K to 10 local and national organizations that empower humanity...a fitting tribute to the company's mascot. The Utah STEM Foundation is honored and beyond grateful to be among the 10 organizations!

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CenturyLink STEM Excellence Award

American Fork High School senior Jason Roberts—this season's first CenturyLink STEM Excellence Award recipient—is a standout STEM student who's dedicated to excellence both within and outside of school.

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Northern STEM Expo for K-12

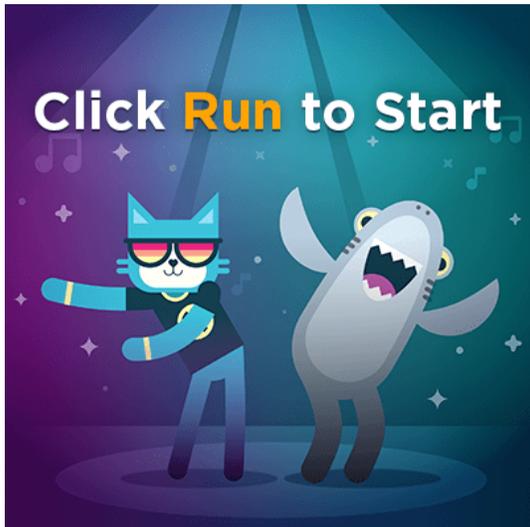
"The purpose of this event is to create an environment for students to build relationships with industry leaders and visualize paths into STEM fields," said Science Supervisor at Davis School District, Tyson Grover in the statement. "Allowing students to experience touch points with STEM-related organizations helps them prepare and plan for their future or even envision a future they never knew existed. In the end, we want students to experience innovation and to realize they can be a part of it."

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Teachers Win Microsoft Hacking Award

Farmington, Utah — Teaching science is a whole new world nowadays. With an emphasis on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) educators have to think outside the box to provide students with the tools they need to succeed in a high-tech future. That creativity by a team of three Davis District teachers is what garnered them a prestigious first place award... [Read More](#)



CS Ed Week

It's CS Ed Week and the fun has just begun! To get things "moving" we got our SUPER SIMPLE hour of code on with a bit of inspiration from [Code.org](#) champion [will.i.am](#) ... Click on the link, run...and even remix what we made, or create your own! Be sure to tag [Utah STEM Action Center](#) in the share!

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STEM AC Named "Tech Champion"

We're honored to have recently been named "Tech Champion" by the St. George Area of Economic Development. We received this award for supporting the growth of Computer Science programs in Southern Utah through various grants and sponsorships as part of the CS4Utah initiative. We're grateful to the St. George community for their partnership.



Lack of Inclusion Challenges



Women in STEM Careers

Recent studies validate this issue. According to a [December 2016 research report by Utah Valley University](#), Utah women hold a lower percentage of STEM jobs than women nationally, and Utah ranked last in the U.S. in terms of the percent of women employed in STEM. Our personal stories showed the challenges first-hand.

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'Aspirations in Computing' Competition Creates Pipeline for Young Women in STEM in Southern Utah

CEDAR CITY — According to the National Center for Education Statistics, more than 57 percent of college undergraduates are women, yet only 18 percent progress into science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields as a career.

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Guest Opinion: Why Veterans Can Ease Critical STEM Workforce Shortage

Workers specializing in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, can help businesses retool, compete and thrive in the 21st-century economy. Far too many companies in Utah's leading industries are struggling to fill crucial STEM positions. Employers here should turn to highly skilled military veterans, who increasingly leave the military with advanced technical expertise but are too often overlooked for STEM jobs.

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Salem Teacher Wins \$3,000 STEM Grant

SALEM (News4Utah) - Mrs. Kate Elliott's 6th-grade class is constantly doing STEM projects, but she says with this funding, her students can now go even further.

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Box Elder Girls Attend Northrop Grumman STEM Conference

On Nov. 3, Northrop Grumman sponsored the 18th annual Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) conference in Northern Utah. This conference focuses on familiarizing young women with the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Approximately 400 young women from grades six through nine attended the conference at North Davis Junior High, Clearfield, Utah.

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Taking Science, Technology, Engineering and Math to the Next Level

Dozens of employers and organizations hosted busloads of sixth- and seventh-graders at the Box Elder County fairgrounds on Friday, Nov. 2, to get that message out, and to show the wide range of career options that await kids who are thinking of going into STEM fields.

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We are THRILLED to announce our first Utah STEM Foundation Entrepreneur Challenge, benefiting Girls Who Code Clubs!

The STEM Foundation (the STEM Action Center's nonprofit) has partnered with industry sponsors to support Computer Science education and entrepreneurship opportunities in the state. The Entrepreneur Challenge will focus on the projects created during this school year. Awards will be given to those that best address issues facing girls today (social, civic engagement, environment, etc.). Participants should be prepared to pitch their projects, emphasizing why the project was created, and the project's anticipated impacts.

Award categories will include:

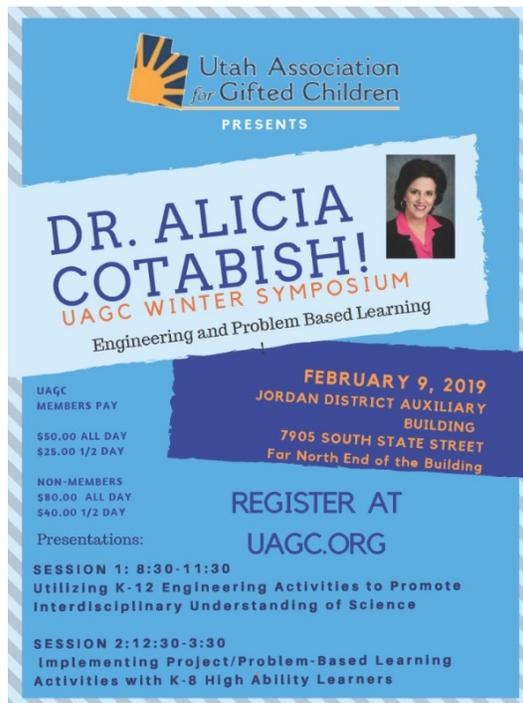
- Essay Contest (elementary programs)
- Peer Mentor Award
- Facilitator Award
- Club Challenge Award

Awards will be accompanied by grant funds for scholarships, purchasing equipment, field trips, or expanding school Computer Science programs. Awardees will be featured at a ceremony at the end of the school year.

Applications are open to all Girls Who Code clubs statewide. Detailed application guidelines, timelines, rubrics, and instructions will be sent out in early January, with applications opening mid-spring. Details on the ceremony date and location will also be forthcoming.

Many thanks to our generous sponsors—Carbonite, Comcast and Centeva—for supporting this groundbreaking event!

STEM EVENTS



UPCOMING STEM EVENTS

- December 4, 2018 - Webinar - [Today's Career Readiness Isn't Yesterday's VoTech](#)
- December 9, 2018 - Pluralsight Hour of Code event (Layton Elementary School) - [More information](#)
- December 12, 2018 - CenturyLink STEM Excellence Award - Jazz Game - [More information](#)
- January 14, 2019 - CenturyLink STEM Excellence Award - Jazz Game - [More information](#)
- January 26, 2019 - Utah STEM and Charter School Expo - Mountain America Expo - [More information](#)
- February 6, 2019 - STEM Day on the Hill - More information to come
- February 8, 2019 - Stars Basketball "Education Night" - [More information](#)
- February 9, 2019 - CenturyLink STEM Excellence Award - Jazz Game - [More information](#)
- February 23, 2019 - SLC Brain Bee (annual neuroscience competition) - [More information](#)
- March 14, 2019 - CenturyLink STEM Excellence Award - Jazz Game - [More information](#)
- April 9, 2019 - CenturyLink STEM Excellence Award - Jazz Game - [More information](#)

STEM PROGRAMS & GRANTS

CenturyLink STEM Excellence Award: Nominate your standout STEM Student today!

In partnership with the Utah Jazz and CenturyLink, the STEM Action Center will recognize outstanding students in STEM. Every month during the NBA season, one 6th-12th grade Utah student will receive the CenturyLink STEM Excellence Award during a Utah Jazz home game. Awardees will receive two (2) tickets to the Jazz game where they will receive on-court recognition at half-time, be featured on the scoreboard, and be given a personalized jersey. Please see official rules for details.

<https://stem.utah.gov/centurylinkstemexcellenceaward/>

STEM Classroom Grants

STEM Classroom Grants opened on November 5, 2018 through December 21, 2018, there will not be another solicitation this school year so this is your last chance! The PreK-12 Classroom Grant is available for **Utah educators and administrators** to apply for funding **to improve student understanding of and learning experiences in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)**. Awards will be granted for **innovative and creative projects in STEM subjects**. These projects should focus on **classroom-level instruction** that is unique to the needs of the students. This grant seeks proposals that are **unique and based on individual classroom needs**.

[Apply through this link](#)

STEM SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

We currently have 15 schools preparing STEM School Designation application portfolios. Wish them luck! To be a reviewer in January, sign up on our web page.

[To see a list of our STEM School Designation Awardees](#)

STEM BUS

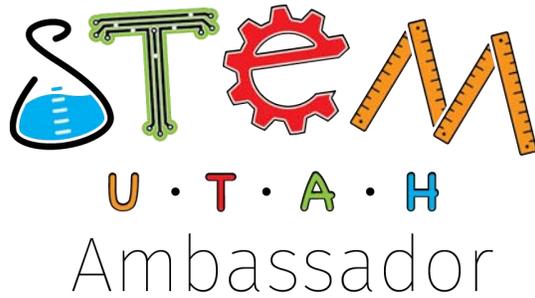




The STEM Bus visited Utah International Charter School on December 3, 2018. Utah International provides secondary education to recently arrived immigrants and refugees. With a very high number of English language learners and mixed-ability grouping, the kids did a fantastic job helping each other and designing their own video games.

STEM AMBASSADORS

The Utah STEM Action Center is always looking for high school and college students as well as



recent college graduates and industry professionals who have a passion for STEM and would like to volunteer their time promoting science, technology, engineering, and math to K-12 students and educators throughout the State of Utah.

[Apply to become an ambassador](#)



Ryan Boken (left) studied computer science and is currently a software engineer for Verscend. Also a multi-talented musician, his early exposure to STEM and musical instruments sparked his passion for exploring innovations in music. When he's not producing software, you'll find Ryan re-purposing vintage instruments into modern musical marvels through applied technology.

Anna Sun (right) is a web developer for Zions Bank. She has a bachelors degree in Computer Science and is currently working on her MBA and masters in Information Systems. She is also honored to serve as Miss Utah County 2018 and has dedicated her year to increasing female participation in STEM by exemplifying the accessibility of STEM careers.



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Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development

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