

### STEM ACTION CENTER

*U.C.A. 63N-12-201*

The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Action Center prioritizes STEM education to develop Utah's workforce of the future. The program drives research and implementation of STEM education best practices across Utah by coordinating STEM-related activities, creating and supporting STEM education, facilitating access to education tools, and aligning public STEM education with higher-education STEM activities. In order to advance STEM initiatives, the STEM Action Center Board will use legislative funding to oversee several projects that align with K-16 education and support the Utah State Board of Education and higher education partners.

These programs address issues that support outreach, recruitment, retention and student achievement. Additionally, the STEM Action Center will align technology and innovation with industry needs and higher education initiatives to ensure development of the future workforce. This will safeguard the state's economic prosperity by ensuring there is workforce ready to take on the high-quality, STEM-related careers.

The following projects are part of the STEM Action Center's portfolio, in partnership with the Utah State Board of Education, the Utah System of Higher Education and industry:

- Providing innovative approaches to professional learning for K-12 educators
- Creating an elementary STEM endorsement
- Coordinating a K-16 Computer Science, Education and Talent Development Initiative
- Improving Career and Technical Education programming
- Deploying digital learning math tools in K-12 classrooms
- Supporting industry-recognized STEM certification pathways for high school students
- Implementing a STEM School Designation Certification for STEM schools
- Helping educators and students engage with STEM subjects through hands-on activities

### FY 2016 Summary

- The STEM Action Center provided several micro-grant opportunities that support student participation in fairs, camps and competitions, allowed teachers to develop STEM activities in their classrooms and support organizations that host activities such as robotics and science fairs.
- The center sponsored numerous events including SheTech (a girls robotics camp), STEM Best Practices, several STEMFest events and various award events that recognized student achievement in STEM.
- The micro-grant programs impacted approximately 11,890 students, while sponsored events impacted approximately 63,020 students and family members.

### Outcomes

The numbers of students impacted by STEM Action Center programs in FY 2016:

- Fairs, Camps and Competitions: 1,113
- Classroom Grants: 9,883+
- STEM Certification pathway grants: 6,919
- K-12 Math Technologies: 180,707
- STEMFest: 17,000+
- Organization Grants: 4,519
- Sponsorship (events): 62,500



### Moving Forward

The STEM Action Center will continue to expand awareness and access to STEM education and career pathways. The center will work with all stakeholders to secure resources that help to create an innovative, engaging learning environment for students. The K-16 Computer Science Pathways initiative is a key effort that illustrates the collaborative approach that the center employs to leverage commitment and resources to impact student opportunity and success.



For additional information about the STEM Action Center visit [STEM.utah.gov](http://STEM.utah.gov) or contact **Tamara L. Goetz**, Executive Director at [tgoetz@utah.gov](mailto:tgoetz@utah.gov) or 801-538-8800