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Idaho STEM Action Center Supports FIRST Robotics Regional Competition

BOISE, Idaho (December 1, 2015) — The Idaho STEM Action Center surprised the FIRST Robotics Idaho Regional planning committee with a donation of \$50,000 to support Idaho’s inaugural competition.

“It’s exactly the type of program that the STEM Action Center believes in and seeks to support.” stated Angela Hemingway, Executive Director STEM Action Center. “It’s a logical partnership and an investment in Idaho. “

“For years our Idaho teams have had to leave the state to find places to compete.” said Idaho’s FIRST Regional Competition Chairman Lisa Lalliss-Skogsberg. “We want our kids to stay in Idaho and to have other state teams compete here too. With the support of organizations like the STEM Action Center, Boise State University and others, we can make an impact on these students and demonstrate through our actions that Idaho is leading-edge when it comes to technology, STEM education and workforce development.”

On March 30 – April 2, 2016, Idaho will hold its inaugural FIRST Robotics Regional Competition at Boise State’s Taco Bell Arena. This competition pits high school teams and their student-designed robots against each other in a fun and competitive robotic game. An estimated 45 teams and 1,500 students are expected to attend the multi-day event described as part competition, part rock concert and part sporting event.

Dr. Amy Moll, Dean of the College of Engineering at Boise State University and FIRST Committee Member challenges, “The Idaho STEM Action Center has set the bar extremely high, but it’s going to take a lot of support from our business community to make this a success. We must invest in Idaho’s future.”

About FIRST: FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an organization whose mission is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication and leadership.

About STEM Action Center: The STEM Action Center was created by the State of Idaho in 2015 and is tasked with coordinating and promoting science, technology, engineering and math initiatives and education across the state.