



Governor's STEM Initiative Announces Grant Funding For West Virginia Schools and Community Organizations

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CHARLESTON, W.Va. (February 26, 2016) - The Governor's STEM Initiative, housed within the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, today awarded more than \$150,000 in grant funding to support science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities at 54 schools and organizations across the state. The program is designed to support STEM programs, projects and events serving West Virginia students from Pre-K through high school.

"Our state's future is changing, and in order to fill the jobs being created in West Virginia for West Virginians, our students must have access to these specialized programs to develop the skills they need to compete for work in high-demand fields," Gov. Tomblin said. "As economic development opportunities in our state continue to require a STEM-focused workforce, we are working to prepare today's students for the jobs of today and tomorrow."

In 2014, Gov. Tomblin established the Governor's Council on STEM to develop specialized STEM education opportunities for West Virginia students to meet workforce demands, revitalize students' interest in STEM professions, and increase the number of graduates in these fields over the next 10 years. The Council's recommendations are being implemented through the Governor's STEM Initiative.

Grant funding has been awarded to the following programs:

- Ben Franklin Career Center, Kanawha County
- Berkeley County 4-H STEM Program, Berkeley County
- Boys & Girls Club of Eastern Panhandle, Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties
- BridgeValley Community & Technical College, Kanawha County
- Capon Bridge Middle School, Hampshire County
- Elkins High School, Randolph County
- Elkins Middle School, Randolph County
- Frankfort High School, Mineral County
- Glenville State College: Hidden Promise Scholars Program, Gilmer County
- Hacker Valley School, Webster County
- Harpers Ferry Middle School, Jefferson County

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- Hedgesville Elementary, Berkeley County
- High Rocks Educational Corporation, Pocahontas County
- Horace Mann Middle School, Kanawha County
- 179 Development Council, Marion County
- John D. Rockefeller IV Career Center, Hancock County
- June Harless Center for Rural Educational Research & Development, Cabell County
- Kanawha County 4-H Leaders Association/WVU Extension Service, Kanawha County
- Kanawha County Barn Bums 4-H Club, Kanawha County
- Keyser Primary School, Mineral County
- Lincoln County High School, Lincoln County
- Mabscott Elementary School, Raleigh County
- Man Middle School, Logan County
- Martha Elementary School, Cabell County
- Meadowbridge High School, Fayette County
- Monongalia County 4-H Leaders Association, Monongalia County
- Montrose Elementary School, Kanawha County
- Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club, Monongalia County
- MountainHeart Community Services, Inc., Wyoming County
- New River Elementary School, Fayette County
- Parkersburg South High School / PSHS Patriot Crew Boosters, Wood County
- Partnership of African American Churches, Inc., Kanawha County
- PATCH 21st Century LLC, Jackson and Roane Counties
- Philippi Public Library, Barbour County
- Playmates Child Development Centers, Wayne County
- Preston County Schools Gifted Program, Preston County
- RESA 4, Braxton, Webster, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Fayette, and Greenbrier Counties
- Richwood Middle School After School Program, Nicholas County
- Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI), Cabell County
- Sherrard Middle School, Marshall County
- Sherman Elementary School, Boone County
- South Parkersburg Library, Wood County
- STARBASE Martinsburg (DOD), Berkeley County
- Suncrest Primary School at Research Ridge, Monongalia County
- Taylor County 4-H Leaders Association, Taylor County
- Tucker County High School, Tucker County
- Union Elementary School, Upshur County
- United Way of River Cities, Cabell County
- University High School, Monongalia County
- Wayne Elementary School, Wayne County
- Wheeling Park High School, Ohio County
- WV School for the Deaf & Blind, Hampshire County
- WV School of Osteopathic Medicine, Greenbrier County
- WVDE at Academy Programs, Marion County

Grant funding will support startup costs for new STEM projects or provide resources to expand existing STEM programs. Grants will provide resources for classroom/learning materials, technology investments/tools, professional development for teachers/staff, and other costs associated with the program.

For more information, contact Gretchen Frankenberry, Governor's STEM Initiative Executive Director, at (304) 558-2440.