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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY AWARDS \$134,000 FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STEM EDUCATION PROGRAMS

CARSON CITY, NV – January 26, 2018

The Governor's Office of Science, Innovation, and Technology (OSIT) today announced grant awards that will fund growth in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs in elementary schools. A total of \$134,129 will be awarded to 5 school districts and two charter schools. Funding for these programs was made possible by the William N. Pennington Foundation.

"High-quality STEM education prepares students for in-demand, high-paying careers, but it also prepares them for life. Skills like critical thinking, teamwork, communication, and problem-solving are important no matter your endeavor. I want to thank the Pennington Foundation for their generous support of STEM education in Nevada," said **Brian Mitchell, Director of OSIT**.

Funding from the K-5 STEM Grant program will benefit 5,136 students attending 24 elementary schools. Schools were eligible to apply for two new grant programs. The first is a micro-grant program for elementary educators to purchase small equipment for innovative and creative STEM projects that align with classroom instruction and increase students' exposure to STEM. The second, larger program funds high-quality, evidence-based STEM curriculum and professional development programs found on the [STEM Advisory Council's list of recommended STEM programs](#).

Research has found that one-third of boys and girls lose interest in science by the fourth grade, and that a child's interest in STEM is largely formed by the time she or he reaches upper elementary and early middle school. The same research also finds that early exposure to STEM, especially for girls, makes children more likely to succeed in science and pursue STEM fields in college. Yet, just 38% of Nevada's elementary schools in Nevada reported offering STEM during the school day in a survey conducted by OSIT.

These new grant programs align with three key strategies identified in the [State STEM Strategic Plan](#). First, the State should increase the use of hands-on, evidence-based, experiential STEM learning in grades K-5. Second, the State should increase the percentage of elementary schools that teach science three-plus hours per week. Third, the State should increase interest in, awareness of, and achievement in the STEM subjects in grades K-5, particularly amongst demographic groups that are traditionally underrepresented in STEM.

Additionally, OSIT has partnered with the [Raggio Research Center](#) at the University of Nevada Reno to evaluate the impact of funding from the K-5 STEM Grant program on attitudes toward STEM and student learning.

List of Award Recipients:

Carson City School District-	\$24,332.70
Douglas County School District-	\$18,228.06
Lyon County School District-	\$25,945.19
Oasis Academy, Fallon-	\$21,395.00
Storey County School District-	\$16,479.40
Washoe County School District and Coral Academy of Science, Reno-	\$27,748.86

About OSIT- The mission of OSIT is to coordinate, support, and align efforts by K-12 and higher education, workforce development and employers to improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and STEM workforce development so that Nevada’s workforce can meet the demands of its growing economy.

About the Pennington Foundation - The William N. Pennington Foundation was formed by the late William N. Pennington, a gaming industry pioneer and philanthropist, and provides grants to Northern Nevada based organizations in the areas of education, community services, health care, and medical research. The foundation also supports the community and health services for children and the elderly, as well as providing financial aid to students in colleges and universities.