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**Record Number Nevada Schools Demonstrate High-Quality STEM Learning
Environments, School Systems, and Community Partnerships**

Carson City, NV – The Governor’s Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT) has announced seventeen schools have received the [Governor STEM School Designation](#) and are invited to the 2024 Governor’s Recognition Ceremony in May 2024.

“Governor Designated STEM Schools establish the standard of excellence in STEM instruction and serve as exemplary models for PK-12 schools across the state. This recognition is a testament to the schools' unwavering commitment to equipping students with the skills and aptitude necessary to excel in STEM fields and beyond. This is a well-deserved honor and congratulations to this year’s Designated STEM Schools,” said Lis Dziminski, OSIT’s STEM Program Manager.

Nevada Governor Designated STEM Schools demonstrate high-quality STEM attributes, as described in the [Nevada STEM Framework](#). Attributes include STEM professional learning and collaboration opportunities for teachers, real-world, industry-aligned STEM learning experiences for students, and collaboration with family, community and industry professionals that develop students’ STEM identities and interests.

The vision for the Governor STEM School Designation program is for every student in Nevada to experience a high-quality STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education, with the ultimate objective of preparing students to thrive in the New Nevada economy. Key to realizing this vision is the effort to encourage all schools, with a particular focus on reaching underrepresented groups, to adopt practices that engage and expose students to real-world problem solving, creative design, innovation, critical thinking, and career opportunities through STEM-focused formal and informal education.

Designated schools are rated as Developing, Established, or Model STEM schools. Schools rated as Developing have begun shifting to STEM and have several strong foundational aspects for STEM education. Established schools have demonstrated high-quality attributes across the Nevada STEM Framework. Model schools have been established for two or more years and demonstrate Model attributes across the Nevada STEM Framework. Model STEM schools consistently provide all students with experiences that will prepare them for Nevada's STEM industries. Further, Model STEM school alum possess strong STEM skills, knowledge, interests, and belonging that will contribute to the advancement of Nevada's innovation and competitiveness on a national and global scale.

Aspiring STEM schools can apply with OSIT for the designation each winter. Promising applicants are invited to schedule a site visit, during which reviewers collect evidence through observations and conversations with students, staff, and leadership. Review teams are comprised of OSIT staff, Nevada Department of Education staff, Regional STEM Network Advisory Committee members, leadership from designated STEM schools, and invested community STEM stakeholders representing industry, workforce development, and government. Reviewers use evidence collected during the site visit along with the school's application to determine the school's rating against the Nevada STEM Framework.

"We at the Nevada Department of Education celebrate a significant achievement in Nevada's education landscape with the successful designations of Governor's STEM Schools. This milestone is a testament to the collective effort of educators, administrators, students, and communities dedicated to advancing STEM education. Nevada's schools are exemplars of innovation and excellence, fostering a dynamic learning environment where students are thriving. These designations reaffirm our state's commitment to preparing the next generation of leaders and innovators who will drive forward progress and prosperity in Nevada and beyond." Rachel Ferreiro, STEM and Elementary Science Education Program Professional, Nevada Department of Education.

OSIT welcomes eleven newly designated schools:

Incline Middle School, Developing
Jackpot Combined School, Developing
Kenny C. Guinn STEM Academy, Developing
Lomie G. Heard Elementary School, Developing
Roberta C. Cartwright Elementary School, Developing
Sandra B. Abston Elementary School, Developing
Somerset Academy, Aliante Campus, Developing
Mabel Hoggard Math & Science Magnet School, Established
Rancho High School, Established
Southeast Career Technical Academy, Model
West Career and Technical Academy, Model

In addition to the eleven newly designated schools, six already-designated schools successfully earned a higher rating, or earned their five-year re-designation this year:

Advanced Technologies Academy earned a Model rating,
Incline Elementary School earned an Established rating,
The STEM and Medical Academy at Jim Bridger Middle School earned an Established rating and the five-year re-designation,
Frank J. Lamping Elementary School, Developing, earned the five-year re-designation,
Lied STEM Academy, Model, earned the five-year re-designation, and
Smithridge STEM Academy, Developing, earned the five-year re-designation.

Tracey Howard, OSIT's STEM Program Director, congratulates these schools on their dedication to providing meaningful learning experiences to Nevada's students, from which all Nevadans benefit: "It has been a pleasure learning about, supporting, and celebrating these schools across the State. Each school leverages their community's unique qualities, strengths, and challenges to put students in the driver's seat of their education. Nevada's STEM students are solving relevant problems creatively and collaboratively. I am confident the future of Nevada is in good hands."

Governor Designated STEM Schools join a network of schools with exclusive access to grant funding, professional learning, and networking opportunities. For more information regarding the Governor Designated STEM School program, visit https://osit.nv.gov/STEM/Gov_Designated_STEM_Schools/.

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