TMC Labs
Idaho's Mobile Makerspaces
Empowering STEM
Idaho's Think Make Create (TMC) Labs are mobile makerspace trailers, operated by schools and community-based organizations, providing robust, hands-on STEM education, tools and curricula for all K-12 youth. The program provides a flexible platform for communities to tailor it to their own needs, leveraging local resources to build more STEM career pathways across Idaho.
GOAL 1

Increase hands-on experience of rural and underserved youth with skills related to STEM.

GOAL 2

Increase professional experience of educators in rural and underserved communities leading hands-on activities.

GOAL 3

Increase community engagement supporting STEM learning and workforce development.
WHAT IS A MAKERSPACE?

A place where hands-on, self-directed and inquiry-based activities help kids learn, especially those that don't always succeed in a traditional classroom setting. Makerspaces are places for exploration and self-discovery.
WHAT IS A TMC LAB?

• A mobile, pop-up platform for STEM activities, materials and curriculum.

• Can be embedded in under-served and rural communities.

• Reaches kids both in schools and in afterschool programs.

• Helps kids learn how to make things, gain confidence and see themselves as young engineers or scientists.

• Uses research-based transformative practices to maximize student success.
Why Mobile Makerspaces Matter in Idaho

- Idaho's economic future depends on expanding STEM jobs.
- Rural and underserved communities lag behind in STEM opportunities.
- TMC Labs leverage local resources and are flexible enough to meet unique local needs.
CURRENT PROJECT STATUS

• TMC Leadership Team successfully launched the first 16 labs in May 2021.

• More than 25,000 youth have used the labs so far.

• Each month, approximately 1,000 K-8 youth use TMC Labs.

• 28 TMC Labs will be on the road in 2023.
2023 PROJECT NEEDS

1. Financial support for TMC Lab "pioneers," expanding STEM education in their communities.

2. Professional development and mini-grants for TMC labs operating in new locations.

3. Build new labs in priority areas. Each lab could reach 1,000 more youths.

4. Create new TMC activities for middle and high school youth, TMC "On the Go" kits, and cradle-to-career youth mentorship programs.
Join Us!

TMC labs are most successful when used both by school and out-of-school programs.

You can:
- Attend a TMC training.
- Join our Shop Talk Zoom meetings.
- Sign up to have a TMC Lab visit you.
POTENTIAL IMPACT

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<th>20,000 youth per year is a good start!</th>
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<td>With more communities, TMC could reach 3 times as many youth.</td>
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<td>With more frequent engagement, TMC will have a greater impact.</td>
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<td>The TMC project is a key strategy for increasing educational capacity in Idaho -- Potentially engaging as many as 200,000 community members in STEM learning.</td>
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HOW TO PLUG INTO TMC

- Pave the Road Sponsors - need 2 ($30,000 when matched by STEM AC) to cover basic infrastructure for program including....

- Lead Sponsorship for new labs - need 5 - ($20,000 when matched by STEM AC)
Conestoga Partners: need 10 - Support a currently deployed "pioneering TMC lab hosts" to expand STEM education in their communities ($15,000 when matched by STEM AC).

Launch Boosters - need 6 - To support professional development of educators associated with a new TMC lab and ramp up operations for recently launched labs. ($8,000 when matched by STEM AC)