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**A MESSAGE FROM THE GOSTEM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KIM YOUNG**



Hello GO STEM community!

First and foremost, thank you for the warm welcome.

I've been asked to provide a little personal background, so here's the quick version: I am a native of the

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northwest. I grew up in a tech family, but (to their dismay) studied social and natural sciences. My graduate studies were in public policy, with an emphasis on environment and natural resource administration. My primary desire has always been-- and continues to be-- to improve the world through direct, positive community impact. Throughout the years, I've spent time working in agri-finance, as a federal grant administrator, an environmental consultant, and am now GO STEM's executive director. I am thrilled to be part of such a knowledgeable and passionate team -- there are so many exciting things happening!

I firmly believe that STEM is our future. In eastern Oregon, GO STEM is its mechanism. Throughout the past month, I've had the opportunity to meet with many of GO STEM's partners and Oregon's other hubs. Every area and every opportunity is unique. As we move forward, I intend to explore these opportunities, with a focus on expanding and strengthening our industry connections. This will help develop career pathways and provide more opportunities to all of you. GO STEM is well positioned as a conveyor of STEM information, opportunities, and values; it is my goal that it continue to grow and that, through that growth, regional opportunities and prosperity are strengthened.

Thank you to everyone for the work you are doing. I look forward to working more closely with each of you toward achieving a positive and collective impact.

Things that are happening:

- Our Facebook account features regional events and fun daily news briefs. Follow us at: <https://www.facebook.com/EOUGOSTEM/>
- We have a FREE lending library full of STEM toys and equipment: <http://go-stem.org/lending-library/>

Upcoming events:

- IMESD Tech Expo, Thursday, March 7th, 2019, EOU
- EOU STEM Preview Day, Friday, January 25, 2019, EOU (register <https://www.eou.edu/visit/>)
- ODOT Eastern Oregon Construction and Utilities Day, Thursday, May 2nd, 2019, 9a.m. – 2 p.m., Baker City ODOT Maintenance Station

Please submit any events, stories, or photos you'd like featured to: [kwyoung1@eou.edu](mailto:kwyoung1@eou.edu) or [mjaeger@eou.edu](mailto:mjaeger@eou.edu)

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## **CHIEF SCIENCE OFFICER UPDATE**

GO-STEM is coordinating the Youth Voice Grant and the National Chief Science Officers Program. Featured below is an example of the program and what young people in the region are accomplishing in their communities.

Elyse Tinglstad, Chief Science Officer for Joseph Charter School, Wallowa County



Elyse is an avid outdoor enthusiast, comfortable in the woods snow, rain, or shine. She feels strongly that teaching students how to be safe in the wilderness is critical, especially when she considers her community's remote location. Elyse has decided to use the Engineering Design model to expose middle school students to a hands-on problem solving and critical thinking skill. Of course, the problem she chose for the students to solve was how to survive in the outdoors! Her plan is to take middle school students to a local park and have them design survival shelters, using what they find in the natural environment. Elyse is planning on recruiting other high school students to lend a hand putting this Action Plan into ACTION.

Elyse's Action Plan will expose the students to the Chief Science Officer program. They will enjoy the Engineering Design day while learning how to become a CSO, and its impact on Wallowa County.

Tyler Homan, Chief Science Officer for Joseph Charter School



Tyler is working with a mentor, learning about the coding and robotics profession. He is combining his Senior Project with his CSO Action Plan. Tyler is launching a fundraising project with the goal of purchasing four-five Lego robotics sets. He will then develop lesson plans with elementary school teachers and his mentor, to then

teach Legos robotics to local elementary school classes.

This is an ambitious project because it has several steps that rely on the success of each prior step. Tyler has developed his relationship with his mentor and has begun working on his fundraising.

Interested in the CSO Program and how your school could be involved? Contact Abigail Southgate at [asouthgate@eou.edu](mailto:asouthgate@eou.edu)

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### OUTDOOR SCHOOL PLANING?



If your school is planning Outdoor School for the future, Nod Palmer, retired science teacher extraordinaire, recommends you consider the Ascension Camp and Conference Center. The Center provides more than just a site for your campers. Consider the services they provide:

- Pre- and post-Outdoor School lesson plans
- Pre-outdoor school lessons and campfire lessons
- They can even hire teachers to deliver the lessons!
- Tips for making Outdoor School successful
- Curriculum Guides
- Lodging for 100 youngsters
- Great food

The site has plenty of open spaces, trees, room for kids, good kitchen, multipurpose room with prep kitchen in bad weather .

See Nod Palmer at [nod.palmer@gmail.com](mailto:nod.palmer@gmail.com)

Or check-out their website at: <http://www.coveascensionschool.com/>

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## NEW FEATURE ON FACEBOOK: STEMazing NEWS

We are linking interesting and inviting STEM stories in the news to students through our Facebook link. Each day a news story will be told in a quick summary with a link to the larger story, pictures, and videos. If you are looking for a way to start your day with students, consider STEMazing news clips!

Here is a sample:

### FOG DRINKING BEETLE!



There isn't much water in the Nambian desert on the west African coast. That is an understatement—it almost never rains there, but the do experience coastal fogs. How do some creatures survive without liquid water? One strategy is to hoist up your abdomen when the fog comes in and harvest the dew on your wing covers. Tenebrionidae beetles do just that with hydrophilic exoskeletons. Why should we study these beetles? Learning how we might copy nature and make synthetic materials to attract water may help collect fog water and hydrate humans in dry climates. Read and see more at: <https://asknature.org/strategy/water-vapor-harvesting/#.XAmywRNKigQ>

Brought to you by  Greater Oregon Science Technology Engineering & Math [gostem.org](http://gostem.org)



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