# Idaho National Laboratory

## **OUR MISSION**

INL's K-12 STEM Program works to inspire Idaho's future STEM workforce, impact students, teachers and families by integrating best practices in STEM education, and empower employees to become STEM mentors to transform K-12 STEM into a driver for innovation.

## **STEM IN ACTION**

#### **EXPLODING ART**

The 'explosion' seen in this art project is a result of chemistry. It's the visual result of two compounds reacting and producing a gas, which happens when water and Alka-Seltzer meet, producing carbon dioxide. We cannot see the chemical reaction because it happens too fast, but if we add the paint, we can see what happened. Chemists at INL and in other labs work with similar reactions every day!

#### TRY THIS AT HOME

You can try your own experiments at home using three simple materials: liquid, Alka-Selzer tablets, and a sealable container. Take different sized containers, different amounts of Alka-Seltzer, and different amounts and temperatures of liquid to analyze your own explosive impact for art. Be sure to stand back a safe distance from your experiment!

## **CAREERS IN STEM**

### **BUILDING STEM SKILLS**

If you enjoy the challenge of learning new things, understanding how things work, and solving problems, a career in STEM could be your future! We have computer, material, and nuclear scientists; electrical and mechanical engineers; and software developers. And these are just a few of the careers at INL that use the same core skills that you just demonstrated! Visit us and learn more about the careers that await you.

## STUDENTS + PARENTS + EDUCATORS

For information on grants, training and student opportunities; curriculum ideas and resources, please visit us at: stem.inl.gov.

