

Exploring and Experiencing Science and Technology Workshop

April 9-10, 2025





Welcome

Sunshine W. Shepherd *K-12 STEM Education Coordinator, Idaho National Laboratory*

Sunshine is the K-12 STEM Education coordinator at Idaho National Laboratory. She is a citizen of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the mother to three young children. She works closely to provide outreach and educational opportunities to schools and community organizations. She leads various programming including STEM Scholars and sits on a variety of boards and steering committees. She joined INL in October 2021. She earned her bachelor's in Native American Indigenous studies from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. She earned her Master of Public Administration from Idaho State University and is working toward a doctorate in education from Idaho State University.



Ryan Hansen K-12 STEM Outreach, Idaho National Laboratory

Ryan is passionate about career technical education (CTE) and STEM outreach. With 15 years of experience as a high school educator, Ryan has cultivated a deep understanding of the educational landscape and the importance of engaging students in CTE and STEM fields. In 2018, Ryan joined Idaho National Laboratory's Communications team with the Facilities and Site Services division. Recently, he transitioned to the STEM team, where he continues to make a significant impact by inspiring the next generation of innovators and scientists. Ryan holds a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education with an emphasis in Spanish and Communications from Idaho State University. He furthered his education by earning a Master's degree in Educational Technology from Walden University, equipping him with the skills to integrate technology effectively into educational initiatives. With his extensive background and unwavering commitment to STEM education, Ryan Hansen is excited to represent Idaho National Laboratory to Idaho's K-12 students.



Cait McGraw
K-12 STEM Education and Outreach Specialist, Idaho National Laboratory

Cait McGraw is the K-12 STEM Education and Outreach Specialist at Idaho National Laboratory, where she develops and implements programs that cultivate critical thinking, problem-solving skills and workforce readiness in future STEM leaders. With expertise in scientific research, education and workforce development, she collaborates with educators, industry partners and community organizations to align STEM initiatives with educational and industry needs. Cait holds a B.S. in Biology from West Virginia University and an M.S. in Natural Resources with a focus on experiential environmental education from the University of Idaho. Her passion for science, place-based experiential learning and the outdoors drives her commitment to fostering STEM identity in young minds, helping students connect with real-world applications and career pathways.



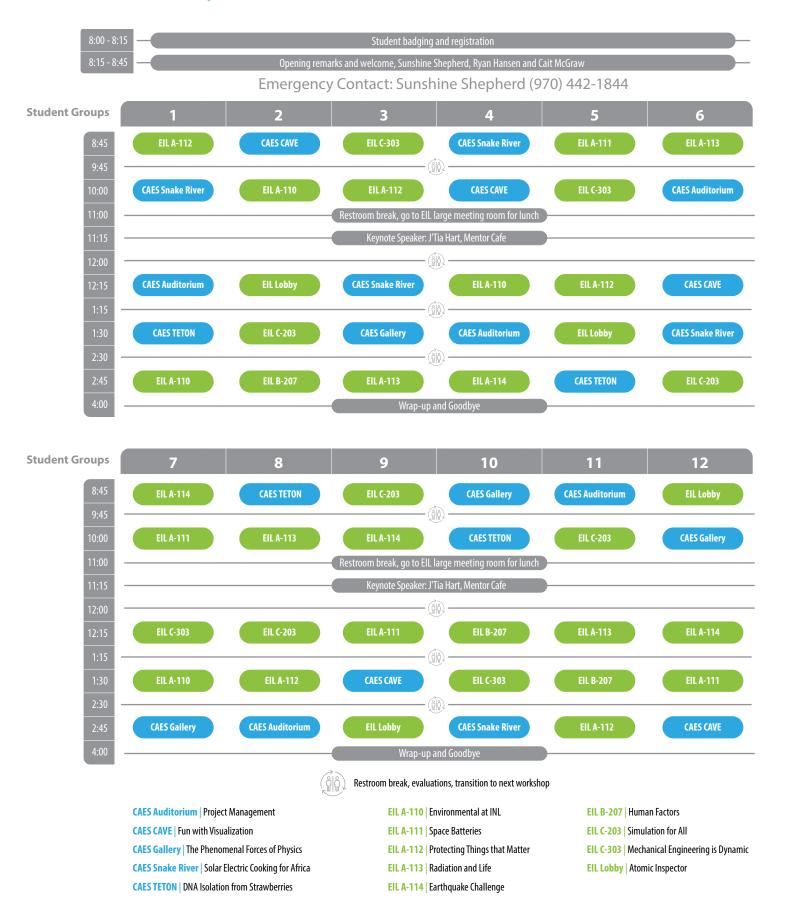
Keynote Speaker

J'Tia Hart, PhD

N&HS Nuclear Nonproliferation Director, Idaho National Laboratory

Dr. J'Tia Hart is the director of Idaho National Laboratory's Nuclear Nonproliferation Division, leading a team of 60 scientists, engineers and researchers. She previously served as the chief science officer for INL's National and Homeland Security directorate, focusing on enhancing the research environment and developing scientists and engineers. Dr. Hart has worked within the DOE complex at INL, Argonne National Laboratory and DOE headquarters, where she led multi-laboratory teams and served as an executive intelligence briefer. She holds a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Florida State University and advanced degrees in nuclear engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Dr. Hart is an advocate for women and underrepresented minorities in STEM, creator of the YouTube series STEM Queens, and an Ambassador for STEM outreach with the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Day 1 Workshop Schedule



Day 2 Workshop Schedule

