Governor’s STEM Initiative Announces
Grant Funding For West Virginia Schools and
Community Organizations

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (February 26, 2016) - The Governor’s STEM Initiative, housed within the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, today awarded more than $150,000 in grant funding to support science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities at 54 schools and organizations across the state. The program is designed to support STEM programs, projects and events serving West Virginia students from Pre-K through high school.

“Our state’s future is changing, and in order to fill the jobs being created in West Virginia for West Virginians, our students must have access to these specialized programs to develop the skills they need to compete for work in high-demand fields,” Gov. Tomblin said. “As economic development opportunities in our state continue to require a STEM-focused workforce, we are working to prepare today’s students for the jobs of today and tomorrow.”

In 2014, Gov. Tomblin established the Governor’s Council on STEM to develop specialized STEM education opportunities for West Virginia students to meet workforce demands, revitalize students’ interest in STEM professions, and increase the number of graduates in these fields over the next 10 years. The Council’s recommendations are being implemented through the Governor’s STEM Initiative.

Grant funding has been awarded to the following programs:

- Ben Franklin Career Center, Kanawha County
- Berkeley County 4-H STEM Program, Berkeley County
- Boys & Girls Club of Eastern Panhandle, Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties
- BridgeValley Community & Technical College, Kanawha County
- Capon Bridge Middle School, Hampshire County
- Elkins High School, Randolph County
- Elkins Middle School, Randolph County
- Frankfort High School, Mineral County
- Glenville State College: Hidden Promise Scholars Program, Gilmer County
- Hacker Valley School, Webster County
- Harpers Ferry Middle School, Jefferson County

For more information:
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Grant funding will support startup costs for new STEM projects or provide resources to expand existing STEM programs. Grants will provide resources for classroom/learning materials, technology investments/tools, professional development for teachers/staff, and other costs associated with the program.

For more information, contact Gretchen Frankenberry, Governor’s STEM Initiative Executive Director, at (304) 558-2440.