

For Immediate Release:

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## **COLUMBIA BASIN COLLEGE AND STEM FOUNDATION PARTNER FOR STEM Like ME!® STUDENT SUMMIT**

**Pasco, WA, October 16, 2025** – Columbia Basin College (CBC) in partnership with the STEM Foundation hosts students from Kiona-Benton City High School for an educational STEM summit on October 17, 2025. The STEM Like ME!® Student Summit focuses on providing a variety of hands-on STEM activities to foster curiosity and engagement in STEM careers.

The event pairs high school students with a CBC Student Mentor and a STEM Ambassador – professionals within STEM- and clean energy-focused careers, to provide insights and inspiration for different career paths within STEM. These guides, selected and coached by The STEM Foundation, help students actively explore what's possible in STEM. "Through conversations with Columbia Basin College Student Mentors and STEM Ambassadors, students gain a firsthand look at college life and STEM careers—experiences that help them envision themselves thriving in these fields," said Heather Tibbett, Executive Director of The STEM Foundation. The students attend workshops with CBC professors across several departments, and take part in hands-on activities designed to foster excitement around STEM. During lunch, a CBC student panel shares their experiences and educational pathways into STEM fields.

"CBC is proud to support the STEM Foundation to create broader access to educational experiences and foster curiosity around STEM. We recognize the future workforce will need to have broader exposure to potential careers and skills within STEM fields to be better prepared for their careers" - Dr. Rebekah Woods, President Columbia Basin College.

First piloted in 2014, The STEM Foundation's STEM Like ME!® has served more than 41,000 students state-wide. STEM Like ME!® was recognized by Governor Jay Inslee as one of the state's 21 best practices for career-connected learning. These programs include the innovative STEM Like ME!® suite of school-based interactions and a teacher grant program. Through personal interactions with STEM professionals, students are inspired to envision themselves in the shoes of a STEM professional and learn more about career pathways.

For questions, please email Elizabeth Burtner, Vice President for Marketing & External Engagement at [eburtner@columbiabasin.edu](mailto:eburtner@columbiabasin.edu). And Heather Tibbett, Executive Director of the STEM Foundation at [Heather@STEMLearning.org](mailto:Heather@STEMLearning.org).

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The STEM Foundation

The STEM Foundation incorporated in 2009 with a vision of becoming a national model for generating passionate support for science, technology, engineering and mathematics in public education. The non-profit's first project was to support the launch of Delta High School. It has expanded its scope to programs that create a substantial and sustainable impact on the quality of STEM education across the Mid-Columbia.



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## NEWS RELEASE



Columbia Basin College (CBC) is a public community college serving the Tri-Cities and surrounding communities since 1955. CBC's mission is to inspire, educate, and support all students in an environment of academic excellence leading to the completion of degrees, certifications, and educational transfers, while fostering meaningful employment, engaged citizenship, and a life-long joy of learning. CBC offers both two and four-year degrees and one-year Certificates. Bachelor of Applied Science degrees are offered in Applied Management, Applied Management in Agriculture or Healthcare, Community Health, Cyber Security, Dental Hygiene, Health Physics, Project Management, Respiratory Therapy, Software Development, and Administration Teacher Education. CBC also offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Computer Science.