
The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele.

Erica Compton, Project Coordinator

Erica Compton is an Idaho native with a background in education, technology, and training. Erica has worked primarily with educational and training organizations for over 20 years. Much of her work experience has been in the area of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) education with students ages 6–18.



In 1998 Erica co-founded an education company and spent four years as Director of Operations and Lead trainer. The company developed a product where tweens and teens could design and build their own 3D environments to address complex challenges and then interact in those environments in fully immersive virtual reality. She trained throughout the US and enjoyed working with staff from Science Museums, Boys and Girls Clubs, and public schools. She was also fortunate to work on two incredible projects in California and Florida designed to address the issue of underrepresentation of women in STEM fields of study. Both projects focused on introducing middle school girls to STEM education, with the goal of increasing the percentage of women pursuing careers in STEM related fields.

Erica joined the Idaho Commission for Libraries in February of 2010 as a Project Coordinator for “Special Populations.” In 2012 she co-developed the *Make It at the Library* pilot project, implementing MAKING in public libraries in Idaho. The project focused on supporting libraries in the creation of makers regardless of space restrictions, and incorporated extensive hands-on training, materials and tools, and ongoing support. Libraries included those in small rural towns, in urban areas, and even one in a school/community library. The second year of the project was launched in January of 2014 and now supports eleven libraries throughout Idaho. The *Make It at the Library* project has been highlighted in conferences and presentations across the United States and has been met with great enthusiasm and interest.