



## Press Release

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### **Washburn University announces collaboration with AT&T, Bartlett & West, and Westar Energy in new STEM education Initiative**

**For Immediate Release  
April 14, 2017**

Topeka, Kan. – Washburn University, AT&T, Bartlett & West, Inc., and Westar Energy are collaborating on a new STEM education initiative that will focus on encouraging students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math to meet the developing needs of the workforce.

The three industry partners have made a substantial investment in the multi-faceted initiative that will begin with a statewide STEM conference for educators in the fall and technology for a dedicated STEM classroom on the Washburn campus. The classroom will serve as a model for teacher preparation and a venue for programs that introduce community members to STEM activities, STEM careers and the necessary education to achieve STEM career goals.

“We are excited about this new initiative and see it as an extension of the longstanding relationships Washburn University has with AT&T, Bartlett & West and Westar,” said Jerry Farley, president, Washburn University. “The commitment of these companies demonstrates the strength of public-private partnerships. This is an investment in education, an investment in our community and an investment in the future workforce.”

The statewide conference will take place Oct. 30, 2017. The keynote speaker is Mae Jemison, an engineer, physician and the first African-American female who traveled to space. The conference will draw educators from around the state to explore innovative educational approaches to STEM education, hands-on activities that can be implemented in the classroom and the benefit of industry partnerships to further STEM education and career opportunities.

**For more information, contact:**

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