



Industry's Excellent Educators Dedicated to STEM INDEEDS AWARDS

North Idaho STEM Charter Academy, Rathdrum, Idaho



Each year Idaho STEM Action Center honors two outstanding Idaho educators who champion science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and connect students to industry leaders to mentor projects and provide invaluable career guidance. INDEEDS awards are given out at the Idaho Technology Council's Hall of Fame Gala.

Jessica LaPresta, math teacher at North Idaho STEM Charter Academy in Rathdrum, was the Industry's Excellent Educators Dedicated to STEM (INDEEDS) Award winner in the 7-12th grade category. Award winners are peer-nominated and industry-selected. Leaders from Vynyl, Micron, Idaho National Laboratory, Idaho Power, Discovery Center of Idaho, and Trailhead supported this year's awards.

LaPresta chairs the North Idaho STEM Charter Academy's math department, and this is her eighth year teaching mathematics, including dual-credit college algebra and analytic trigonometry, at the Rathdrum school. She also teaches business technology, financial literacy, senior project, and serves as faculty of North Idaho College as a math instructor. Prior to teaching, LaPresta worked for the Department of Defense performing operations research analysis, computer programming, probability, and statistics.

SENIOR PROJECT PROVIDES BUSINESS PRACTICE SKILLS

In LaPresta's senior project course, students conceptualize a business plan that serves to fill a need in the community. Senior projects include a marketing and advertising plan, financial plan, and a logo and slogan. Students pitch their ideas to a judges' panel and work on weekly assignments to build a portfolio and present their business plan at the end of the semester. LaPresta invites community members into the classroom to teach business practices including financials, human resources, IT, and business pitches. Community members serve as student mentors and on the judges' panel. Students are encouraged to visit community members in their place-of-business to gain a better understanding of how that business runs in the real-world. Students experience the world of work through this amazing project.



**STEM is about engaging with the world
through creativity, collaboration,
and innovation.**

**And STEM skills give Idahoans a
competitive edge in the workplace;**
preparing them for high-paying, high-
demand careers in agriculture, healthcare,
computer science, and more.

STEM...Helping build a prosperous Idaho!





THANK YOU

to Idaho's Employers
for Supporting Idaho's Students



STEM CLASSES BUILD FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE

"Our students need to be able to think on their own and strategize through problems when they get out in the real-world," LaPresta said. "So, when I get questions like, 'When will I ever use this?' I honestly tell them they may never use something like factoring trinomials in the real world, but the ability to think on your own is so important. You're building this personal knowledge to take it to a higher degree, so I think the content they're learning and the foundational pieces they're building through the years is all helping them become better citizens in any job that they have – to be more successful, to be better thinkers and learners and community members later. STEM education is important because it enables our students to be productive citizens in our communities."

STEM learning is important for future careers that are as varied as scientists, programmers, and construction. Foundational STEM skills will allow students to adapt to rapidly changing work environments of the future.



Building STEM through:

EDUCATOR ACCESS
to STEM professional development
throughout Idaho.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
focused partnerships
with industry and universities.

STUDENT STEM COMPETITIONS
and camp support.

Our Partners



STEM IS EVERYWHERE AND FOR EVERYONE!



GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Your participation is essential for Idaho's success! There are many ways for you to engage with STEM education. Mentor. Volunteer. Donate. Partner. Help us build a path to prosperity for all Idahoans.

Learn more

To learn more about the STEM Action Center's strategies, success stories, and positive impacts in your community, email: admin@stem.idaho.gov or visit stem.idaho.gov.



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