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## **Six Outstanding Idaho Educators Named for Nation’s Highest STEM Teaching Honor**

(BOISE) – Six outstanding Idaho educators will be honored as Idaho’s 2025 finalists for the national Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

Idaho’s nominees will be considered against other math and science teachers from around the country to be recognized as national PAEMST awardees. The award is widely considered to be the top honor bestowed by the U.S. government to K-12 science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) educators. Nominees are considered based on their quality of teaching, leadership and impacts made in the classroom.

“The PAEMST awards are an opportunity for us to recognize Idaho educators who are pulling out all of the stops when it comes to student achievement in STEM,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield. “As opportunities in STEM-related careers continue to grow in Idaho and nationwide, the work that these dedicated educators are doing has never been more vital – or more impactful – for our students and communities.”

PAEMST awards alternate between secondary and elementary school instructors. This year’s finalists in secondary education are:

### **Mathematics:**

- Nicole Anderson - Priest River Lamana High School, West Bonner School District
- Vicki Baker - Timberline High School, Boise School District
- Shelley Nash - Independence Alternative High School, Blackfoot School District

### **Science:**

- Rylee DeVito - Riverglen Jr. High School, Boise School District
- Tanya Elmer - Borah High School, Boise School District

- Amanda Harris - Middleton Middle School, Middleton School District

Awards are given to STEM instructors from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Department of Defense Activity Schools and U.S. territories. To be considered for the honor, awardees submit lesson videos and rigorous application materials.

Since the program's inception, more than 5,200 educators have been recognized for their dedication to high-quality STEM education.

Nominees who advance to the national award level will be recognized by the White House and will receive a paid trip to Washington D.C., a certificate signed by the president and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation. National awardees are expected to be announced by the White House this summer.

The nomination process for the next PAEMST cycle will open this fall and will honor elementary-level educators. Anyone, including principals, teachers, parents, students and members of the public are encouraged to [nominate](#) STEM instructors who are teaching grades K - 6 for the 2025-2026 school year. Teachers may also apply for the award directly using the [application on the PAEMST website](#).

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