

A Moment of Science from ISTA

Idaho Science Teaching Association President's Newsletter

April 2024



A Word (or two) From Your ISTA President!

As President of the Idaho Science Teaching Association, I'm deeply committed to supporting our educators, especially during the final stretch of the school year. April marks a critical juncture where teachers often find themselves balancing the demands of the classroom with the need for personal rejuvenation.

During this last quarter, it's essential to recognize the significance of filling teachers' cups. These dedicated professionals have poured their hearts and souls into their work throughout the year, and now, more than ever, they deserve our support and encouragement.

Attending conferences and engaging in professional development opportunities can serve as a much-needed source of inspiration and renewal. These experiences not only provide valuable

insights and resources but also reignite educators' passion for teaching.

What inspires me most is witnessing the dedication and resilience of our teachers. Despite the challenges they face, they continue to show up for their students day after day, striving to make a difference in their lives. Their unwavering commitment to excellence fuels my own passion for advocating on their behalf and ensuring they have access to the support and resources they need to thrive.

As we enter the final quarter of the school year, let us redouble our efforts to fill teachers' cups and uplift them in their noble profession. Together, we can empower educators to finish the year strong and continue making a positive impact in the lives of their students and communities.

Warm regards,
Tanya Elmer
President
Idaho Science Teachers Association



Mark Your Calendars!

Join other members of the ISTA alongside our colleagues from ICTM and IdEEA for two days of fantastic professional development later this summer. Ticket prices will go up on June 1st so get in on this early bird registration opportunity and be a part of connecting with other Idaho science and math educators! Visit [the ISTA website](#) to get registered TODAY!

Educator Open House



Preview our new **Mummies of the World** Exhibition at this free, educators-only event!

April 29, 2024
4:30-6:30 PM



DCIDAHO.ORG

Sneak Peak for ISTA Members!

Hey ISTA members! You have received a VIP invitation to attend this special sneak-peek at the new Mummies of the World exhibition in April. The event will take place on Monday, April 29th from 4:30-6:30 (people can drop by whenever during that time frame). There is no need to pre-register. This is a free event for educators to be able to preview the content.

ISTA @ NSTA



Your ISTA Board Goes to NSTA!

The Idaho Science Teaching Association is an affiliate of the National Science Teaching Association. Last month, several of our board members from across the state got a chance to attend the national NSTA conference in Denver, Colorado.

They participated in some great networking, took classes from science education experts to keep their content and pedagogical knowledge fresh, and found lots of great information to bring back to us in Idaho! Here is a little taste of their exciting weekend!



BUILDING a CULTURE of STEM



IDAHO **ECOSYSTEM** 2024 CONVENING
April 11-12, 2024 | Nampa, Idaho

Idaho EcosySTEM Convening

Save the date, spread the word, and let's build a culture of STEM together! Join us April 11-12, 2024 for the 4th annual EcosySTEM Convening at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa, Idaho.

For more information, please visit [the Idaho EcosySTEM's website](#).

[Register today!](#)



ReWild The World

World Wildlife Day was March 3. To celebrate, World Wildlife Fund and Google Arts & Culture partnered together for [Rewild the World](#), a new educational project that brings focus to four threatened species and their habitats: tigers, gorillas, polar bears, and sea turtles. This interactive game uses Google MediaPipe machine learning technology to let users see through these animals' eyes. As players restore habitats with simple hand gestures, they witness the power that biodiversity has on nature and the undeniable impact of human actions on the environment.



Project GREEN Summit Registration is Open

Registration is open for Project GREEN, set to take place in Boise this June. Join in on the 6th Annual Sustainability Summit, where participants will be diving into the theme of grit.

Learn more: <https://www.sustainingus.com/>



i-STEM Registration is Open!

i-STEM is a summer professional development opportunity for educators (PK-12) working in both classroom and informal settings. During the Institute, participants attend a strand on project-based, hands-on learning in a chosen content area, as well as general sessions tied to the Institute theme. Strand topics vary by location and can be accessed at [the Institute links on the iSTEM](#)

[website](#). Each participant will receive a kit of instructional materials unique to their strand, so that they can implement what they have learned in their own teaching environments.

June 10-13, 2024 @

[College of Western Idaho](#)

June 10-13, 2024 @

[College of Eastern Idaho](#)

June 11-14, 2024 @

[College of Southern Idaho](#)

June 17-20, 2024 @

[North Idaho College](#)

June 24-27, 2024 @

[Lewis-Clark State College](#)

June 25-28, 2024 @

[Idaho State University](#).



EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Idaho STEM AC and Workforce Development Council

Summer Externship Benefits:

Idaho businesses partner with educator to host an in-depth summer work-based professional learning experience.

Externs work 200 hours at host sites, learning firsthand how STEM/durable skills are applied in the workplace, so they can better educate their students on potential STEM pathways- All while earning professional development credits AND \$5000.

Site hosts give back to the community and benefit from new perspectives, and an extra hand.

Both gain additional value from local professional networks.

APPLY TO BECOME A HOST OR AN EXTERN

<https://stem.idaho.gov/apply/stem-externships/>

Email extern@stem.idaho.gov for more information

Summer Externships for STEM Educators

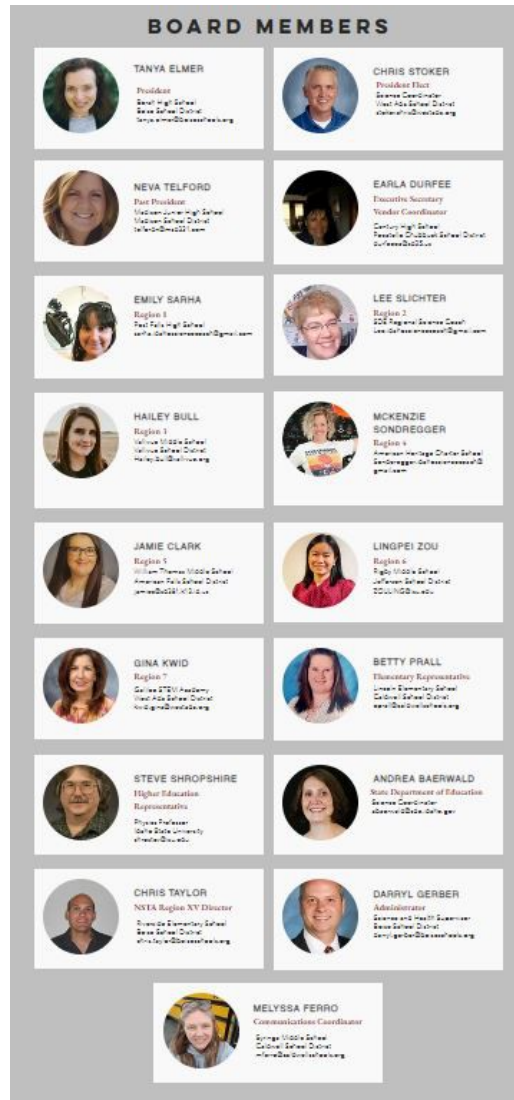
Attention K-12 public school teachers! (also, College and Career Advisors or college level educator): Check out this PAID summer externship opportunity--

Ready for a professional development that provides firsthand STEM/durable skills to share with students? Work-based learning connections are strengthened with local organizations and businesses showcasing professional applications of skills and concepts taught in educational

programming...also earn PD credits and \$5000!!

Consider applying to host if you're an employer, or apply as an extern! Visit [the Idaho STEM Action Center's website](#) for more details!

ISTA Board Members 2023-2024



Tanya Elmer

Idaho Science Teaching Association President
2023-2025

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