

# A Moment of Science from ISTA

Idaho Science Teachers Association President's Newsletter

October 2021



## Greetings from Your New ISTA President!

Hello and welcome to the 2021-2022 school year. Many of you have been hard at work in Idaho science classrooms for the last couple of months. I wanted to take a minute to thank you for your hard work and for the effort that you put into helping our students to develop the knowledge and competencies that they need to be fantastic citizens of our planet.

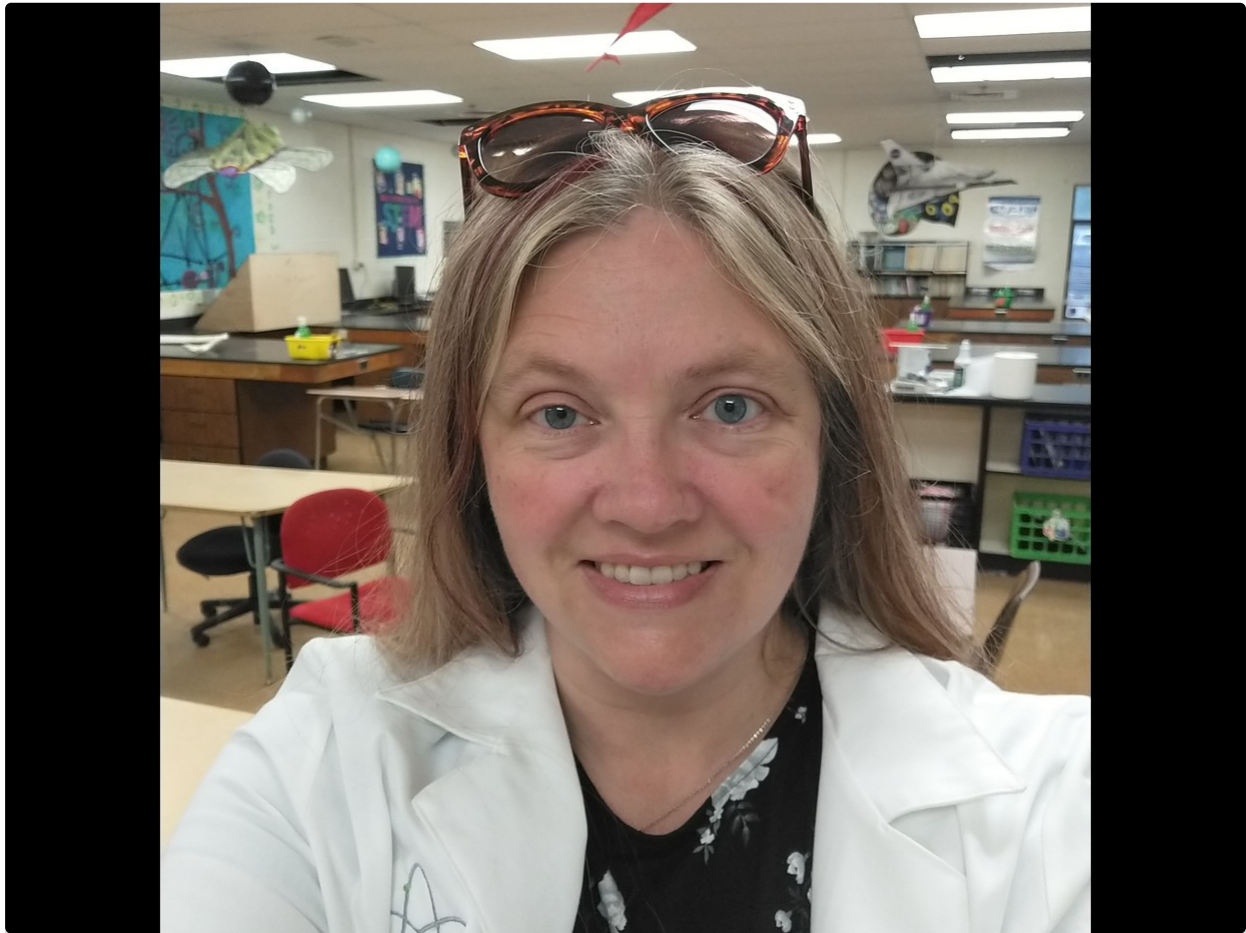
Since I have officially taken office as the 2022 ISTA president, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. After transferring college majors from lab scientist to science educator and graduating from Boise State University with a B.S. in Biology, Secondary Education, I have spent the last 22 years of my career dedicated to providing hands-on and enriching science and engineering experiences for students in the Caldwell School District. My passion is encouraging young women and minorities to become more involved in the pursuit of STEM careers. I earned an M.S. in Middle Level Education from Walden University as well as a PhD in Learning, Instruction, and Innovation. My STEM education pursuits have been focused on teaching 6th grade physical, 7th grade life, and 8th grade earth science at Syringa Middle School. I am the coordinator for the Science and Math Bowl competition team and the summer MASSI program at the College of Idaho as well as leading the Habitat H2O Florida trip and the Expedition Yellowstone experience. I facilitate several teams for the Future City engineering competition as part of my advanced science curriculum. I also serve as the STEM coordinator for Caldwell and I am currently employed as the Digital Integration and Innovation Specialist for my

district. I am excited about helping bring innovative ideas about STEM and educational technology to both teachers and students!

Please reach out to me with your needs and concerns. I plan to help our professional organization reimagine who we are and how we can better serve our members over the next few months. Stay tuned for my monthly newsletter with updates about our organization and our upcoming professional development opportunities!

Have a fantastic October!

Dr. Melyssa Ferro



## Open Board Positions

We are currently going through some transitions on our board of directors and we are looking for some regional representatives. If you know of someone who might be a great fit for our board OR you personally are interested in stepping into a leadership role, please reach out and we can chat!

District 3: Adams, Washington, Payette, Gem, Canyon, and Owyhee

District 4: Blaine, Camas, Gooding, Lincoln, Cassia, Minidoka, Twin Falls, and Jerome

District 5: Bear Lake, Franklin, Oneida, Power, Bannock, Caribou, and Bingham



## i-STEM Strand Providers Needed -- Apply Today!

Want to share your STEMazing knowledge with Idaho educators? [Apply to be a strand instructor at i-STEM 2022!](#) The Idaho STEM Action Center is looking for passionate leaders to teach 4-day strands (workshops) at the i-STEM institutes. Institutes take place the last two weeks of June at six locations across the state. Consider sharing your great ideas with science educators from all over Idaho!

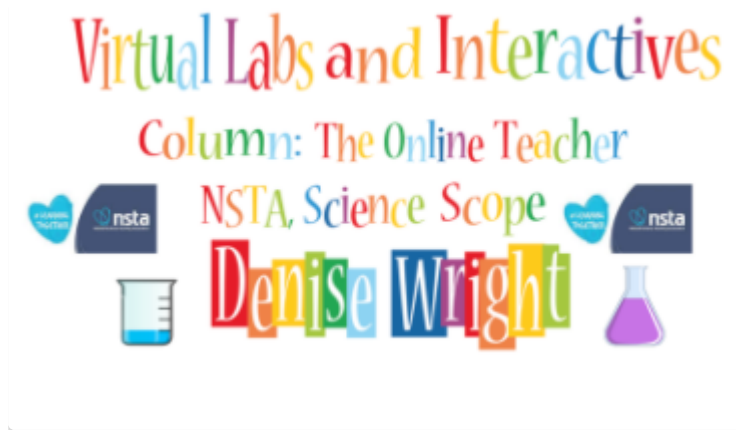
*The application will be open October 15 through December 1, 2021.*



## A FREE Virtual Science Labs & Interactives Resource

With the sunsetting of the FLASH software on December 31st of last year, many science teachers are looking for other ways to incorporate virtual labs and interactives in their curriculum. Check out [this Wakelet](#) full of great resources that you can use in your classroom today!





## Idaho Science Coaching Center -- A Gateway to Resources for Idaho Science Teachers

Did you know that the Idaho State Department of Education has hired regional science coaches to support Idaho science teachers with teaching resources and information about the standards? Visit the [Idaho Science Coaching Center](#) to find some great resources on unpacking the Idaho Science Standards, 3-dimensional science assessments, inquiry-based lesson planning, and phenomenon-based instruction!

For more information, reach out to the Idaho Science coaches:

Emily Sarha (Region I & II Coach) [sarha.idahosciencecoach@gmail.com](mailto:sarha.idahosciencecoach@gmail.com)

Rylee DeVito (Region III & IV Coach) [devito.idahosciencecoach@gmail.com](mailto:devito.idahosciencecoach@gmail.com)

Sara Tolman (Region III & IV Coach) [tolman.idahosciencecoach@gmail.com](mailto:tolman.idahosciencecoach@gmail.com)

Sharon Cates (Science Coordinator) [scates@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:scates@sde.idaho.gov)



## Virtual School Programs from the Discovery Center of Idaho!

**[Discovery Center of Idaho makes Discovery possible everywhere!](#)** Their Virtual School Programs offer engaging, virtual learning experiences via pre-recorded and live-Zoom classes that expose students and families to STEAM learning in the classroom, at home, or on the road!

Optional activity-kits for hands-on exploration are available for as little as \$3/student!

All Packages include:

- Digital Educator Resource Guide with links to resources, standards connections, videos, worksheets & activities
- Up to 2 content-related synchronous OR asynchronous videos (detailed below)
- (Optional) Hands on Arts &/or Science project materials along with detailed, written & recorded

Outside of the Treasure Valley? No problem! The Discovery Center is happy to ship activity materials to classrooms across Idaho. Shipping and handling will be applied to the invoice at time of payment.



**VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Designed to connect virtual classroom content directly to exhibition themes.

**\$3 - \$9 PER STUDENT**

Sponsored by:  

DISCOVER MORE AT: [DCIDAHO.ORG](http://DCIDAHO.ORG)




## Dr. Melyssa Ferro

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Idaho Science Teachers Association President  
2021-2022

 [idahoscienceista@gmail.com](mailto:idahoscienceista@gmail.com)

 [idahoscienceisteacherswix.org/](http://idahoscienceisteacherswix.org/)