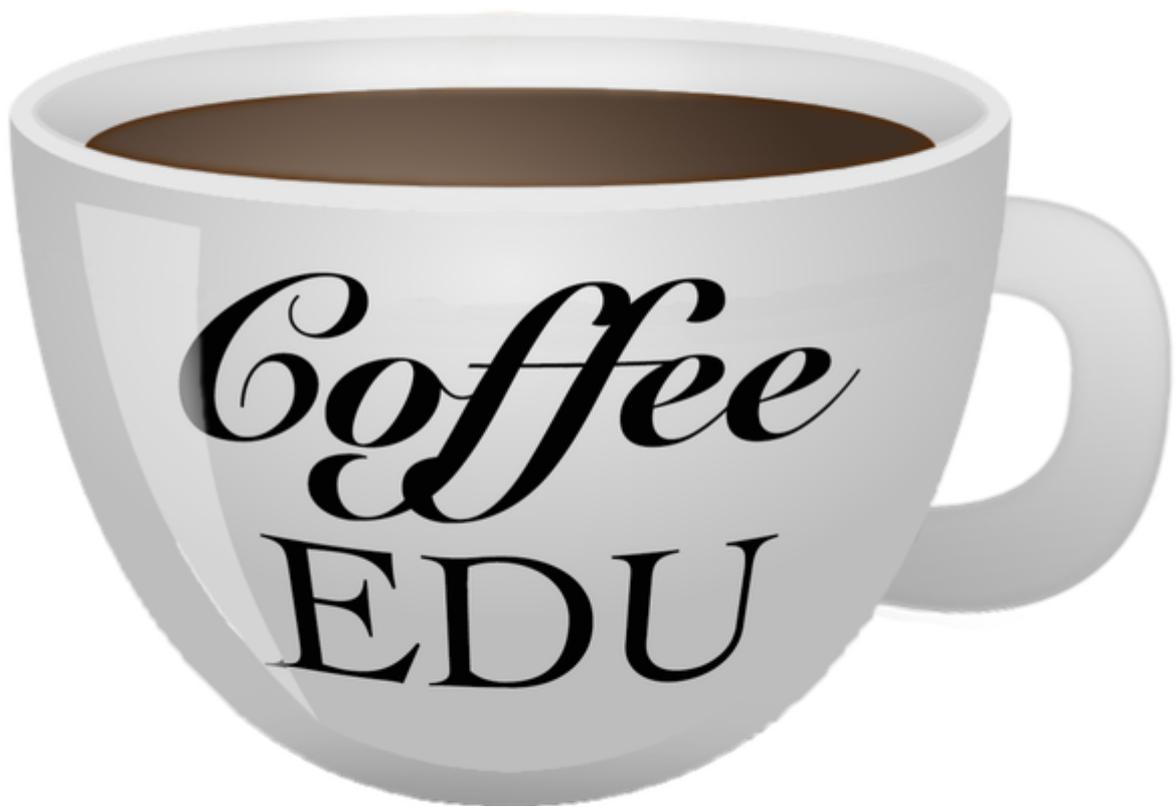


A Moment of Science from ISTA

Idaho Science Teachers Association President's Newsletter

March 2022



A Word (or two) From Your ISTA President!

Happy March, my sciencey friends! This is such a crazy time of year in classrooms all across the country and it seems just a little extra hectic this year. Thank you for everything that you do for Idaho students!

We were able to meet with our colleagues from the Wyoming Science Teachers Association and the Montana Science Teachers Association and we have a great collaboration opportunity coming this spring called #ScienceCoffeeEDU. These will be a series of monthly Zoom chats that give any interested science educator a chance to chat with other science educators and share ideas and resources! I am hoping to have some more information for you soon but mark your calendars for the second Tuesday of March, April, and May from 7-8 pm Mountain time! We will be sending out chat topics and Zoom links in the next few days.

We also want to say a huge thank you to our outgoing Region XV National Science Teaching Association director, Lesley Urasky from Wyoming and a huge welcome to our incoming Region XV director, Idaho's own Chris Taylor from the Boise School District. He takes office in June and will work to help continue our partnership with Wyoming and Montana over the upcoming year.

Our state science standards are still hanging in limbo in the legislature. The 2018 version of the standards that exist in the current IDAPA code were approved by the Senate Education committee on February 10th. I just got word yesterday that the House Education committee has scheduled a preliminary hearing on their proposed bills about the 2021/22 standards this morning. No testimony will be taken since this is just the introductory hearing but we expect the House Ed committee to vote on these measures soon so watch for opportunities to talk to your representatives about why Idaho kids need strong Idaho science standards.

**IDAHO SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
& IDAHO TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS
COUNCIL CONFERENCE**

SOARING WITH STEM 2022

AUGUST 4-5, 2022

Help our students ignite their learning in STEM Education!

**IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
921 S 8th Ave
Pocatello, ID 83209

Sponsored by  Idaho State University College of Education

 IDAHO STEM ACTION CENTER  INL Idaho National Laboratory

USE THE QR CODE TO REGISTER FOR AN IN-PERSON CONFERENCE
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT AVAILABLE THROUGH ISU



Save The Date and Get Registered for Some High Quality Professional Development!

Our fall conference is coming soon so mark your calendar and save the date! We will be meeting with the Idaho Council of Teachers of Mathematics at Idaho State University on August 4-5th to "Soar with STEM"! Check out our [ISTA website to register today](#) and get in on the early bird special!

Early Bird Registration (Mar. 1-Jun 1) \$40

Regular Registration (Jun 2 - Jul 30) \$50

After Jul 30 registration can be taken at the door \$60

Introducing the New i-STEM Libraries



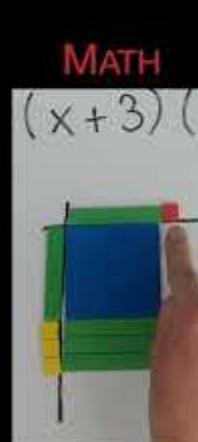
SCIENCE



TECH



ENGINEER



MATH

I-STEM REGIONAL LIBRARY NETWORK

i-STEM Libraries -- A Great Materials Resource for Idaho Teachers!

Welcome to the latest iteration of i-STEM Libraries. This network of six regional libraries offers equipment, kits and technology to enhance STEM learning in your classroom or program! Browse and request available items in your area using the catalog on the website <https://stem.idaho.gov/i-stem-library/> – plus, find lesson plans, videos, teacher guides and more.

The i-STEM Libraries are a project of i-STEM, Idaho's premier professional development opportunity for PK-12 formal and informal educators. For more information about the i-STEM Institutes and how you can participate, visit <https://stem.idaho.gov/apply/i-stem/>



Introduction to Phenomena

Many of you remember Sharon Cates from her time at the State Department of Education and as our past ISTA president. She has moved on to a new chapter in her professional career and is now working for a company called [Introduction to Phenomena](#) that is working to help teachers incorporate phenomenon-based experiences into their curriculum.

Are your students prepared for high-stakes testing in science? Introduction to Phenomena is here to help!

Adoption of standards based on A Framework for K-12 Science Education caused a paradigm shift in science teaching. Many teachers struggle with Framework-inspired curricula as they prepare students for new high-stakes tests.

Introduction to Phenomena explores the idea of using phenomena to focus activities and assessments aligned to Framework-inspired standards. Teachers review 3D standards and dig into the phenomenon concept, discussing characteristics and pitfalls. Teachers evaluate examples and explore how well your curricular materials align with the ideas behind 3D teaching & learning.

In our state-of-the-art course

- Teachers work with experts in phenomena and 3D standards.
- Teachers receive one-on-one attention and feedback.
- Teachers get answers to their questions.

At Phenomenon Science Education, our educators & assessment professionals have spent years studying the Framework & related standards and working with educators to support teachers in this

new environment. We can guide your staff through standards-based, phenomenon-centered strategies to enhance their confidence and effectiveness to support student success. Email us at info@phenomenon.science today



Real World Science Summer Teacher Seminar

This year's Real World Science Summer Teacher Seminar will be open to ANY public school teacher of 5th-8th grade science, and we expect it to be on-site at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. From July 10th-15th we will host 28 teachers from around the country for a week of fun, learning, and professional growth.

Participants will learn how to use the Real World Science curriculum (updated in 2021 with new material) and best practices in science education. Our goal is to make science education equitable and accessible, so that ALL STUDENTS can learn to solve today's problems like STEM professionals did during WWII. We will discuss activities in Physical, Earth, and Life Sciences and Engineering, and learn how to integrate literacy practices and social studies into science investigations with students.

Breakfast, lunch, and two dinners are provided, along with shared accommodations at the Higgins Hotel across the street from the museum. We reimburse for standard travel to and from New Orleans for the week. We'll take field trips to WWII related sites in the region, and visit galleries of the NWWII Museum daily. All of this is made possible by support from The Northrop Grumman Foundation. Participants are expected to return to their region and conduct a short workshop on Real World Science, and to implement the curriculum in their classroom.

Applications open 12/10/21 and closes 3/4/2022. We are looking primarily for teachers 5-10 years into their career, but we choose teachers of all experience levels to round out the cohort.

Please apply! To get more information, and for the application link, go to <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/real-world-science> or email rob.wallace@nationalww2museum.org



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



Bylaws Changes for ISTA

Our organization established our current Bylaws and Constitution back in January of 2013. It is time to take a fresh look at these documents and determine if they really represent who we are as an organization and how we do business.

If you are interested in reviewing our current documents and providing feedback to either the ISTA president OR to your regional rep, please be a part of the process of helping ISTA put on a fresh and current "face"! A lot of our existing language sounds kind of like a boiler-plate template for a generic non-profit and we want it to represent us and our membership.

- [ISTA Bylaws](#)
- [ISTA Constitution](#)
- [ISTA Board Member Job Descriptions](#)

Your ISTA board will be meeting all winter to discuss possible changes to the language of these foundational documents with the goal of bringing changes to you for a ratification vote this spring in conjunction with current Bylaw Article IX which states that "These bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed and a new set of bylaws adopted by a 2/3rd majority vote of the membership. At least 10 days prior written notice setting forth a proposed action and time and place of meeting shall be given to all members." And with current Constitutional Article IX which states "Proposed amendments may be initiated by the Executive Committee or by any one of the districts. This constitution may be amended by a 2/3rds vote of the ballots cast according to the voting procedure of this organization." which occurs either at the annual meeting or by mail as determined by the Executive Committee.



Dr. Melyssa Ferro

 Facebook

 @IdahoScience

Idaho Science Teachers Association President
2021-2022

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