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**Media Contacts:**

Jeff Church  
Chief Communications Officer  
(208) 332-6934  
[jchurch@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:jchurch@sde.idaho.gov)

**SHERRI YBARRA**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Kelly Everitt  
Communications Specialist  
(208) 332-6818  
[keveritt@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:keveritt@sde.idaho.gov)

650 W. STATE STREET  
P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

OFFICE: 208-332-6800  
FAX: 208-334-2228  
SPEECH/HEARING  
IMPAIRED: 1-800-377-3529  
WWW.SDE.IDAHO.GOV

**IDAHO'S TOP SCIENCE TEACHERS HONORED, WILL SERVE AS  
STATE REPRESENTATIVES NATIONALLY**

(BOISE) -- Four Idaho teachers were honored today, October 1, 2015, as the top secondary schools science instructors in the state during the annual Fall Science Conference, held this year at Madison High School in Rexburg.

The four are: Jason George of Vision Charter School in Caldwell; Jeffrey Karlin from Lewiston High School in Lewiston; Micah Lauer, who teaches at Heritage Middle School in Meridian, and Laura Wommack, an instructor at Potlatch Jr./Sr. High School in Potlatch.

The four will advance as the state's representatives to the national Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST), where one will be named as Idaho's representative as one of the top science teachers in the nation. The national winners are selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians and educators following the initial selection process at the state level.

Teachers who are selected for the national award receive \$10,000 from the National Science Foundation, to be used at their discretion, as well as a trip to Washington, D.C., for a series of awards and recognition events, professional development activities and discussions with national policymakers on how to improve mathematics and science education.

"The award recognizes those teachers who develop and implement a high-quality instructional program that is informed by content knowledge and enhances student learning," according to a statement by the National Science Foundation, which coordinates the national selection process.

Each year, the award alternates between teachers teaching at the primary schools level (kindergarten through 6th grade) and those teaching at the secondary schools level (7th through 12th grade).

Additional questions may be directed to Jeff Church at (208) 332-6934 or by email at [jchurch@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:jchurch@sde.idaho.gov).

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