



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SHERRI YBARRA**  
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## Superintendent Ybarra announces Idaho's 2018 Teacher of Year

A teacher dedicated to seeing students “go on” was named the 2018 Idaho Teacher of the Year today.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra announced that Vision Charter School teacher Becky Mitchell is the state's teacher of the year during a surprise visit to her classroom at the Caldwell school.

“Becky Mitchell exemplifies our state's commitment to preparing students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed going forward. She does this through great instruction, mentoring and connecting with students and families,” Superintendent Ybarra said.

“Educators are in the business of human elevation, and Mrs. Mitchell demonstrates that every day,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “From language arts to the sciences, she makes learning both fun and purposeful, guiding students on their life paths. This award is just one way that we can recognize the work of Idaho's amazing teachers and support their efforts.”

Mitchell, head of the language arts program at Vision Charter School, has taught for about two decades. In her years at Vision, she has immersed herself in teaching dual-credit classes, where her high school students earn college credits in courses ranging from chemistry, physics and engineering to English composition.

“I would like to be the spokesperson for ‘going on,’ for encouraging this generation to jump with their parachute and grab the future,” Mitchell said in her application for the honor.

Preparing her students for success includes lessons in financial responsibility for life after high school, and projects and competitions that transcend the classroom to connect teens to their communities and their future. Dual-credit students spend significant time on local college campuses, and Mitchell revamped the school's senior project curriculum to allow “students to try on and research a career before committing money and time to the pursuit.” She also serves as a sounding board and mentor for Vision graduates as they settle into a new world at college.

“Mrs. Mitchell goes above and beyond to invest in the lives of her students,” Vision Charter School Administrator Wendy Oldenkamp said. “She is committed to providing the most engaging learning environment for students and integrates science, art, technology and language arts with ease! She holds the bar high, and her students do not back down from the challenge as she equips them with the tools to successfully accomplish each obstacle they face.”

A teacher of wide-ranging expertise and interests, Mitchell introduced robotics at Vision Charter School and also serves as the school's drama director. She holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry education from Northwest Nazarene University and a master's degree in science education from Montana State University.



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As Idaho's Teacher of the Year, Mitchell receives \$1,000 and opportunities to travel across the state talking with educators, legislators and policymakers about education in Idaho. She also will travel to Washington, D.C., in the spring to meet the president and her peers from other states as Idaho's representative in the national Teacher of the Year program.

Vision Charter School is a K-12 college prep science and art school at 19291 Ward Road, Caldwell.