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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022
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Idaho teachers take top honors in STEM instruction at the PAEMST awards

(BOISE) – The nation’s highest science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) teaching honor, the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching (PAEMST), goes to two dedicated Idaho teachers.

The contest winner for science is Courtney Greene, a grade 3-5 Advanced Learning teacher at Coeur d’Alene’s Fernan STEM Academy (she is now teaching grade 5), and for math, fourth grade teacher Leigh Wilson at Potlatch Elementary School (Wilson now teaches grade 6).

According to the [PAEMST national website](#), the award recognizes educators who have “deep content knowledge of the subjects they teach and the ability to motivate and enable students to be successful in those areas.” National winners receive a certificate signed by the president, professional development opportunities, and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.

“This honor is reserved for instructors who have truly gone above and beyond in inspiring their students to engage with the world of STEM,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra said. “Deeply investing in our students means giving them the tools to succeed, and we’re grateful to these talented and dedicated instructors for preparing young minds for the next steps in their education. Idaho is certainly proud to have such amazing teaching talent.”

These two winners are from the list of finalists SDE submitted in February 2021, and are from the 2019-2020 award cycle, delayed due to the pandemic. Winners for the next PAEMST cycle are expected to be announced this spring.

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