



# A Moment of Science from ISTA

Idaho Science Teaching Association President's Newsletter

January 2025



**A Word (or two) From Your ISTA President!**

We are charging full STEAM ahead as we embark on this school year, but how do we maintain that momentum into the upcoming semester? How can we bring new or renewed excitement to our classrooms to ignite curiosity and inspire our students?

This is an opportunity to reflect on blending the timeless strength of classic content with fresh ideas and innovative pedagogy. By continually adapting and reenergizing our teaching practices, we can create dynamic learning environments where curiosity thrives and students excel.

Through the Idaho Science Teaching Association (ISTA), you can connect with fellow educators to share strategies, collaborate on new approaches, and stay inspired. Together, let's leverage these opportunities to enhance our practices and, ultimately, help our students thrive as scientifically literate citizens.

Be sure to follow our social media posts, tune into our podcast on our website, and explore the regional events posted on Sched. Let's keep the conversation alive and be part of the dynamic dialogue shaping the future of science education in Idaho.

Let's keep the STEAM momentum going and make this year unforgettable for our students and our community!

Warm regards,  
Tanya Elmer  
President  
Idaho Science Teachers Association

Attend the ASM Materials Camp®-Teachers Today!



### **ASM Camp for Idaho Educators**

Calling all High School & Middle School Teachers in Science, Engineering, & CTE!

Mark your calendars: July 21-25, 2025

Location: Boise, ID

What's happening? A FREE Professional Development opportunity hosted by the Micron School of Materials Science and Engineering!



Dive into strategies to engage your students using simple low-cost experiments that you can integrate into your existing lesson plans!

Learn more & [register today!](#)

# THE 2024-2025 PAEMST APPLICATION CYCLE IS NOW OPEN!

APPLY OR NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING 7-12TH GRADE STEM TEACHER, TODAY



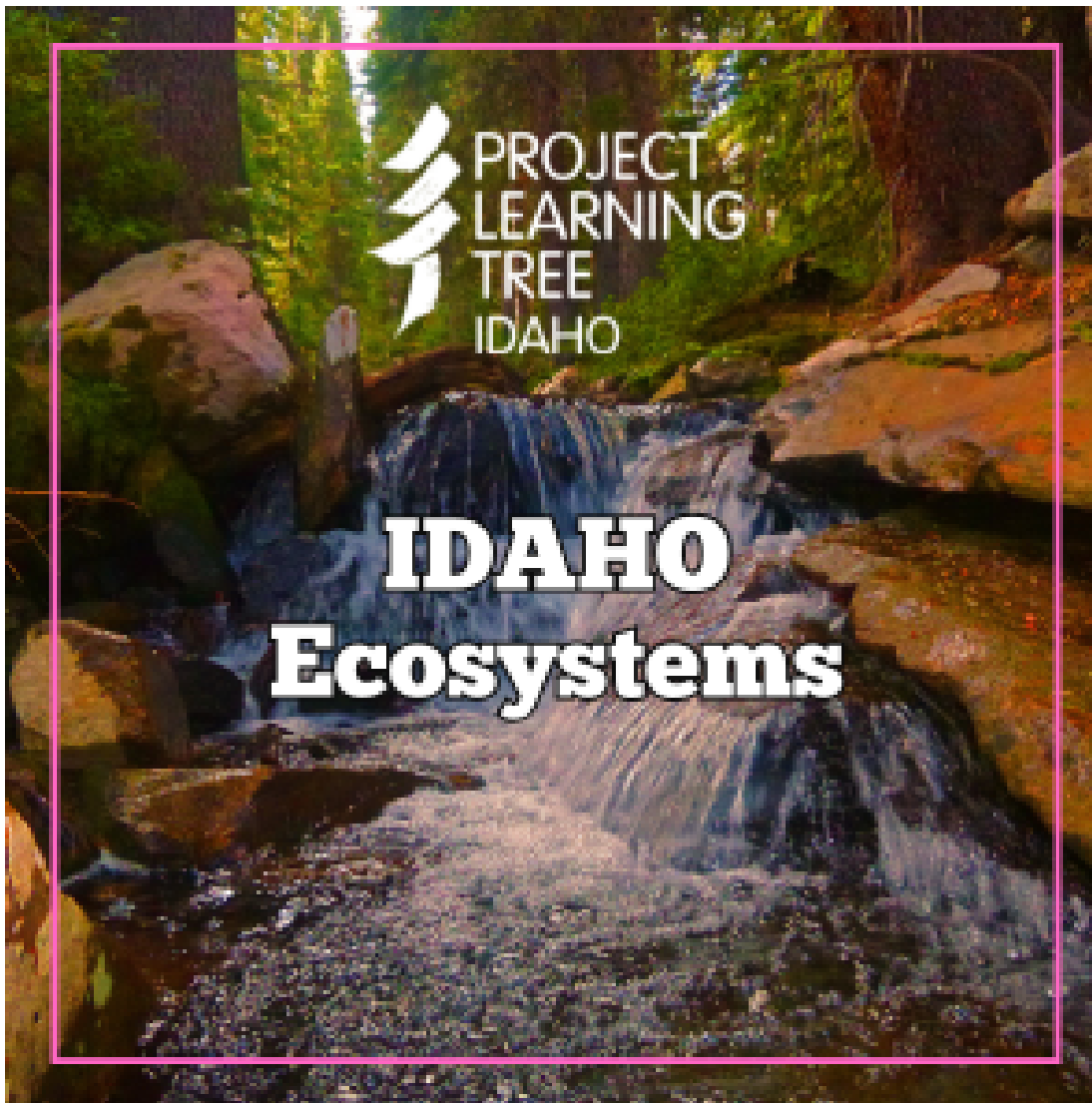
## Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Are Now Open!

Do you know an amazing science teacher? We think that you probably do! [Nominate that person](#) for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) the nation's highest honors for teachers of STEM (including computer science). We KNOW Idaho science teachers are doing great work and want to see those efforts celebrated!



## Idaho's Externship Program

Externship experiences allow educators to build stronger connections in their communities and bring industry-standard skills and experiences to the classroom! Applications for both hosts and educators will open in January, but you can learn more and sign up for communication [HERE!](#)



## Idaho Ecosystems Course

In this interactive virtual class, receive training and award-winning materials from Project WILD, Project WET, and Project Learning Tree to engage upper elementary students in learning about Idaho ecosystems. The class includes three synchronous Zoom sessions (up to 4.5 hours), with most coursework done asynchronously. For part of the class, you will choose one of the curricula (WILD, WET, or PLT) to explore in more depth and receive that program's comprehensive activity guide(s). You will leave the course with plans to use materials from the course with students, whether teaching in the classroom or remotely – both indoors and out.

### WHEN

Zoom sessions 7-8:30 MT / 6-7:30 PST:

February 18

March 18

April 8

Check out [this link](#) for more information!



## A FREE, 100% VIRTUAL COURSE FOR EDUCATORS

- JAN – MAY 2025 | AT YOUR OWN PACE
- 2 OPTIONAL CEU CREDITS AVAILABLE FOR AN ADDITIONAL COST

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 1/6/25**

**MUSEUMOFIDAHO.ORG/BIA-25**



### Bring Idaho Alive

Educators, sign up for MOI's free online course! Dive into Idaho's natural and cultural history through virtual field trips, hands-on activities, and expert-led STEAM resources. Bring Idaho Alive is a self-paced, fully virtual course running from January to May 2025, with an option to earn 2 CEUs through Idaho State University (additional fees apply).

What you'll gain:

\$500 worth of classroom supplies

Guidance from experts in archaeology, biology, geology, history & technology

A custom STEAM classroom toolkit tailored to Idaho Content Standards

Option to earn 2 CEUs through ISU (additional fee applies)

Registration deadline: Jan. 6, 2025 at 11:59pm | [museumofidaho.org/event/bia-25](https://museumofidaho.org/event/bia-25)

Bring Idaho Alive is made possible thanks to support from @idaho.sde and the @idaho\_national\_lab.



# Idaho NASA EPSCoR Summer Faculty Fellowship



**Interested in understanding how your research and expertise might meet the needs of NASA?**

During this summer fellowship, faculty researchers in Idaho are given time and resources to analyze where their existing research and expertise can benefit NASA.

**Application Submission Deadline: January 24, 2025**

For more information about the budget and to apply visit:

[www.idahonasaepscor.org/summer-faculty-fellowship](http://www.idahonasaepscor.org/summer-faculty-fellowship)

## Idaho NASA EPSCoR Summer Faculty Fellowships

Are you a faculty researcher at an Idaho college or university? The Idaho NASA EPSCoR is offering Summer Faculty Fellowships to help you explore how your research and expertise can align with NASA's needs.

This opportunity provides the time and resources to:

Analyze NASA's needs through tools like NSPIRES, the NASA Technology Taxonomy, and more.

Identify how your expertise can contribute to NASA's missions.

Connect with the Idaho NASA EPSCoR team to understand processes and pathways to collaboration.

Submit a completed Faculty Fellow Application with:

A direct budget for \$5,000 + your institution's F&A (templates available).

A letter of support from your Department Chair.

**\*\*Deadline: January 24, 2025\*\***

Don't miss this chance to elevate your research and contribute to NASA's innovative projects!


















Learn more and apply today! [www.idahonasaepscor.org/summer-faculty-fellowship](http://www.idahonasaepscor.org/summer-faculty-fellowship)

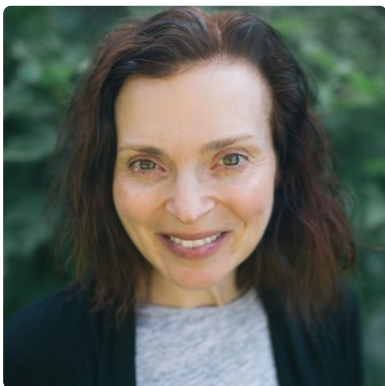
## ISTA Board Members 2024-2025

### Project Learning Tree Resources

Help multilingual students flourish this year with Project Learning Tree's multidisciplinary approach to teaching. Hands-on activities use nature to improve literacy, build STEM skills, increase engagement, and more! Visit [plt.org/explora](http://plt.org/explora) to learn more.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

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## Tanya Elmer

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2023-2025

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