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Bicknell teacher also earns D.C. honor

By Sara Lenz

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BICKNELL, Wayne County — After 11 years of teaching science, Utah teacher Amy Pace will receive the most prestigious award a high school science teacher can hope for: the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

This award is given out annually to the top 100 or so teachers in the nation with a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion. Awards are presented at an expenses-paid-for trip to D.C. this week.

While she said she has spent countless hours serving teachers and students in Utah, it is her associations with colleagues and other teachers that have helped mold her into the teacher she is today.

She said oftentimes people think of science as a boring class, but she tries to make science fun by applying it to her students' lives and helping them understand its importance in their world.

"Our high school students are going to be making the future changes and discoveries," Pace said, "and if I can spark an interest in someone, you never know who will cure cancer or who will make a discovery that can help millions of people around the world."

This year, Pace began work as a biology teacher at Open High School of Utah, an online public charter school. There, the students read and listen to the pre-recorded lessons on their own time and she is able to spend much of her time helping the students individually through video-chatting, e-mail or phone calls.

Before working for Open High School, Pace was a chemistry and physics teacher at Desert Hills High School in St. George and a chemistry, biology, medical anatomy and physiology, earth systems, and physics teacher at Wayne High School in Bicknell, Wayne County.

She has served on State Test Item Writing teams, the State Textbook Adoption Committee and the State Health Occupations Students of America Advisory Board. Pace has been in the Utah Science Teachers Association for many years and has served two terms as regional representative and one term as president.

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