

ed News

Open High Teacher to Receive President's Award

by edReformer December 9, 2010

One of only 103 7th through 12th grade math and science teachers nationwide, Amy Pace is among an elite group selected annually who are representative of the best and brightest STEM (science technology, and math) educators in the country.

We are pulling out her quote, because it's a great commentary on the future of digital learning:

"I am honored to be a Presidential Awardee," states Amy. "The great potential of online learning is still not fully understood. Once you have a clear understanding of the teacher's role in personalized instruction, how the curriculum is delivered, and how technology enables online courses to be rich, interactive, and engaging, you then appreciate that online learning is unleashing a whole new paradigm shift in the way we teach our children." She goes on to share, "The way I am able to teach science in an online environment empowers me with the tools I need to engage these digital natives in a way that both excites and interests them in these critical STEM courses."

Read the rest of the story below:

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Technology is the highest recognition that a K-12 mathematics and science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. PAEMST is awarded annually to the best pre-college-level science and mathematics teachers from across the country. The winners are selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators following an initial selection process done at the state level.

As stated in the official White House press release announcing the awards, "Science and technology have long been at the core of America's strength and competitiveness, and the scientists and engineers who have led America on its remarkable path to success share something very precious: science and math teachers who brought these critical subjects to life," said President Obama. "Today we honor some of the best of these teachers and thank them for their dedication. They are inspirations not just to their students, but to the Nation and the world."

Amy Pace shares her skills as an award winning science teacher in one of the fastest growing and most innovative sectors of public education, online or digital learning. As an online science teacher at the public charter school, Open High School of Utah, Amy's role is transcended from delivering curriculum in a traditional classroom to the role of being a one-on-one tutor, where she provides individualized instruction to each student according to their needs. Amy works in partnership with the Open High Curriculum Director to develop a rich, engaging science curriculum for her students. State of the art technology enables online learning to be driven by data and instant feedback. This allows Amy to easily adapt and enhance her course to fit the needs of her students, empowering her to focus her attention where it should be, on the individual learner.

After 11 years of teaching, this is Amy's first year in a full-service online charter school, where education is delivered via technology. "I am honored to be a Presidential Awardee," states Amy. "The great potential of online learning is still not fully understood. Once you have a clear understanding of the teacher's role in personalized instruction, how the curriculum is delivered, and how technology enables online courses to be rich, interactive, and engaging, you then appreciate that online learning is unleashing a whole new paradigm shift in the way we teach our children." She goes on to share, "The way I am able to teach science in an online environment empowers me with the tools I need to engage these digital natives in a way that both excites and interests them in these critical STEM courses."

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