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**For Immediate Release**  
**March 20, 2024**

**Leading STEM Teachers and Advocates Recognized as Regional STEM Teacher/Advocate of the Year by OSIT and NDE**

**Carson City, NV** – The Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology and the Nevada Department of Education have announced the 2024 Regional STEM Teachers of the Year and the 2024 Regional STEM Advocates of the Year. As the State continues to diversify the economy by recruiting STEM industry, Nevada's education systems are providing high-quality and career-connected STEM learning experiences to students. Nevada's students are acquiring STEM skills, mindset, interests and identities that will propel them and the State forward. The STEM Teacher of the Year Program will recognize individual leaders' impact on the State's STEM education and workforce goals.

Each Regional STEM Network (Northwestern, Rural, and Southern) selected one teacher and one advocate to represent the region. For the purposes of this program, a teacher is defined as a certificated PK-12 teacher currently employed at one of Nevada's public, private, or charter PK-12 schools. An advocate is defined as a leader who helps to advance STEM in their region and/or state. Advocates might include, but are not limited to, school administrators, non-certificated school staff, volunteers, or employees of informal STEM education organizations. The 2024 regional winners are:

Northwestern STEM Teacher of the Year – Trina Kleinhenz, Incline Elementary School  
Rural STEM Teacher of the Year – Vincent Squatrito, Jackpot Combined School  
Southern STEM Teacher of the Year – Dana Cuni, Southwest Career Technical Academy

Northwestern STEM Advocate of the Year – Incline Education Fund  
Southern STEM Advocate of the Year – Claire Romzek, Lied STEM Academy

Winners are eligible for 2024 Nevada State STEM Teacher of the Year and 2024 Nevada State STEM Advocate of the Year, to be announced in May 2024. Each Regional STEM Teacher of

the Year and each Regional STEM Advocate of the Year will receive a plaque along with a digital seal in recognition of their accomplishment. Regional winners will be recognized at their school site or organization. Additionally, the Nevada STEM Teacher of the Year and the Nevada STEM Advocate of the Year will receive a monetary stipend of \$500 each. The winners will be presented with their award at their school site or organization.

For more information regarding the STEM Teacher of the Year program, visit [https://osit.nv.gov/STEM/STEM\\_Teacher\\_of\\_the\\_Year\\_Award/](https://osit.nv.gov/STEM/STEM_Teacher_of_the_Year_Award/).

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