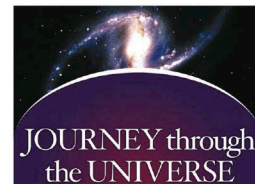




Visiting Educator Profile



Vana Richards

Fifth Grade Teacher
Kenneth J. Carberry Intermediate School
Emmett, ID

Bio

Vana Richards is a fifth grade teacher at Carberry Intermediate School in Emmett, Idaho. She has put her 36 years of teaching experience into good use not only in teaching regular classes, but also in educating students through extracurricular activities. She runs an after-school science club for 4th-6th grade students. The club began with 55 members and has grown to over 160 members, with former members, current junior high and high school students, returning to mentor new members. Vana has served as her school district's science curriculum coordinator, and for six years has been on Emmett School District's Professional Development committee. She is currently the president of Idaho Science Teachers Association. She also teaches and develops lessons for the Discovery Center of Idaho, and is the Carberry NASA Explorer School team lead. Vana has received numerous awards, including: Gem County's 2004 Teacher of the Year, a 2003 Toyota/NSTA Tapestry large grant (and is currently serving as a Toyota/Tapestry judge), a \$10,000 grant from Micron, a 2005 ING Unsung Heroes Award, a Lysol Science Challenge Award, the 2005 Idaho Governor's Industry Award for Notable Teaching in Science, and the 2007 Butler-Cooley Excellence in Teaching Award. She also has received three \$500 Governor's grants, and was the finalist for the 2004 Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science. In 2006 Vana became a MESSENGER Fellow and a member of the Air Space Educator Cohort. In these roles, she has conducted numerous workshops for state, regional, and national conferences.