



For Immediate Release
Contact: Christine McDonald
cmcdonald@edplus.org
314.692.1233
www.edplus.org

The Midwest Educational Technology Community Announces 2019 METC Award Winners

The Midwest Educational Technology Community (METC), a resource of EducationPlus, is proud to announce the 2019 METC Award Winners. These honored educators are exceptional leaders who advance the field of education, demonstrate vision and innovation, and unlock student potential. These regional educators are being recognized for their contributions and efforts in increasing student success.

The award winners will be honored at the METC 2020 Conference during the METC Reception and Awards presentation on Tuesday evening, February 11, 2020. The 2019 METC Award winners applied, or were nominated by their peers, and then reviewed and scored by the METC Planning and Advisory Council (PAC).

“Making IT Happen” is an internationally recognized awards program for educators and leaders in the field of educational technology integration in K–12 schools. The Making IT Happen award is sponsored by the [International Society for Technology in Education \(ISTE\)](#).

The two regional “Making IT Happen” award winners:

- Making IT Happen Educator – Samantha Stearn, Ferguson-Florissant School District
- Making IT Happen Leader – Carol Nelson, McPherson Unified School District #418

METC also recognizes 5 additional EdTech leaders:

- Digital Equity Advocate – Dr. Nichole Lemmon, Springfield Public Schools
- STEM Educator – Robert (Bob) Deneau, Rockwood School District
- Technology Advocate – Richie Williams, Orchard Farm School District
- Library Media Specialist – Shelby Graves, Warren County R-III School District
- Young Educator – Whitney Choate, Cape Girardeau Public Schools

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The METC Conference is the largest educational technology conference for PreK-12 educators in Missouri. Presenters and attendees from more than twenty-two states attend each year to interact with experts in the field, learn from fellow educators and share best practices.

The Midwest Education Technology Community (METC) is the EdTech program of EducationPlus and a premiere affiliate of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). To learn more about METC or the conference, visit www.edplus.org.

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Additional information about the METC awards:

- **Outstanding Young Educator**
Presented to an outstanding young educator (under the age of 35) who demonstrates vision, innovation, action and transformation using technology to improve teaching and learning.
- **Library Media Specialist**
Recognizes and honors one LMS educator who teaches at the PreK-12 level and demonstrates innovative literacy and media practices, while supporting digital citizenship in their school.
- **STEM Educator**
Recognizes and honors one STEM K-12 educator who demonstrates emerging practices of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in their teaching, while engaging and empowering students for their success.
- **Digital Equity Advocate**
Recognizes and honors one school personnel who demonstrates exemplary work, challenges the status quo, helps make equitable decisions concerning technology and/or provides information and resources as a model for teaching, learning and leading in the digital age in support of equity.
- **Technology Support Advocate**
Recognizes and honors one school personnel who demonstrates exemplary technology support and advocacy for implementing best practices in technology in the areas of digital safety and network security to increase global connections and authentic experiences for all learners.