



PRESS RELEASE

Comstock Teacher Selected to New Innovative Educator Corps (IEC)

Ann Swinehart of Comstock STEM Academy will receive \$5,000 stipend to expand innovative practices in Comstock and throughout Michigan.

COMSTOCK - December 3, 2018 – The Michigan Department of Education is celebrating the first-round selection of educators to be part the new, statewide Innovative Educator Corps (IEC). Comstock STEM Academy teacher Ann Swinehart is one of the seven educators initially selected statewide.

The Innovative Educator Corps (IEC), authorized under the Marshall Plan for Talent (Public Act 227 of 2018), is a new recognition program for Michigan teachers who employ an innovative educational program, methodology, or strategy to help prepare their students for future career success in high-demand fields.

“To continue building Michigan to become a Top 10 education state in 10 years, we need to take innovative and effective teaching practices and share them with every teacher in the state,” Interim State Superintendent Sheila Alles said. “Teachers play a key role in preparing Michigan’s students for successful futures and developing innovative ways to deliver instruction ignites a passion in students to learn and be innovative themselves,” Alles added.

IEC members will receive a \$5,000 stipend as recognition for their innovative instruction, and will also be provided an additional \$5,000 to be used in partnership with an Intermediate School District to expand, replicate, and share innovative practices. Applicants were nominated by peers, students, parents, community members, and school district administrators. Educators were required to document pupil academic achievement and successful implementation of innovative instructional methodology in preparing pupils for 21st century careers; and exemplify the passion, energy, and professionalism of the teaching profession.

Due to the overwhelming number of applications received, the Michigan Department of Education will continue reviewing applications and anticipates additional IEC members will be added in 2019.

Each year, up to 100 educators who have implemented innovative learning practices and strategies in their classroom to help their students become career ready in high-demand fields will be named to the IEC.

For more information on the Innovative Educator Corps, please visit the MDE Recognition Programs Page: https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5683_13651---,00.html