



International Coalition of Girls' Schools

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Advancing Girls'
Education Globally

2022-2023 H. William Christ Educator Prize Recipient Jess Reid



Jess Reid is an instructor of Biology, Neuroscience, and the Independent Research coordinator at the Academy of Notre Dame de Namur in Villanova, Pennsylvania (USA). In addition to her presence in the classroom, Jess also serves as a Grade 12 advisor and is involved in many clubs, including serving as the faculty advisor to Environmental Club, Half a Million Kids, and Take a Break Club. In 2022, Jess also joined as part of the school's committee working in partnership with the JED Foundation, a non-profit organization aimed towards supporting students' mental health.

Becoming enamored with science at an early age, Jess credits her own teachers for fostering her curiosity and love of learning. For the past 10 years in the classroom, Jess has had the opportunity to teach all levels of Biology and Environmental Science, a 7th grade Life Science class and a Neuroscience elective. In each instance, Jess strives to be the same positive influence for her own students. While not all her students may share the same love of science, Jess works to show how science relates to their everyday life and presents "Women in Science Wednesday," to help spotlight women in STEM whose contributions are often overlooked throughout history. She encourages her students to be strong and independent young women, confident in their abilities as leaders and "steminsts," no matter what field they decide to pursue.

Jess passionately serves as the coordinator for Independent Research at Notre Dame, a role that allows her to oversee all aspects of the science research program for grades 9 through 12, in addition to assisting with middle school science fair programming. After taking over Independent Research at the beginning of the 2019-20 school year, the program has seen increased participation and noteworthy success. Students have competed locally, regionally, and nationally, winning multiple awards and scholarships, participating in the PA Junior Academy of Science, both local and state levels, the Delaware County Science Fair, the Delaware Valley Science Fair, and the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biology with a Minor in Environmental Studies from Drew University, a Master of Science in Biology with a Concentration in Ecology from Villanova University, and a Master of Science in Secondary Education from St. Joseph's University.

Throughout her journey as a lifelong learner, she attended various conferences, including the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Culturally Responsive Teaching Conference, AP Biology College Board Institute, GCLI Leadership Symposium in Pedagogy of Leadership, multiple National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) conferences, and the High School Coaches Leadership Institute.