



## GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10

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**DATE OF MEETING:** April 8, 2025

**TITLE:** Recognition of the ITEEA STEM Schools of Excellence

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**BACKGROUND:**

**Innovation Academy and Keeling Elementary School** were named STEM Schools of Excellence by the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA), a professional organization that recognizes outstanding schools across the country for their “commitment to providing a robust Integrative STEM education program.”

ITEEA created the STEM School of Excellence designation to honor schools whose teachers, administrators, and other stakeholders are providing a meaningful STEM education experience for students. Schools undergo a rigorous application process requiring detailed documentation to demonstrate a strong Integrative STEM program. A panel of reviewers then determines whether the documented evidence represents excellence in Integrative STEM education.

This is the fourth year Innovation Academy has been recognized as a STEM School of Excellence and the second year for Keeling Elementary School to be recognized.

**Beth Brungardt**, ED-P teacher at Keeling Elementary School, was selected for the Goodheart-Willcox Teacher Excellence Award. This is one of the highest honors given to technology and engineering education classroom teachers. Ms. Brungardt was nominated for her outstanding implementation of project-based learning in the ED-P environment.

**Ashlee Manley Watson**, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Innovation Academy, received the Elementary STEM Council Excellence in Elementary STEM Education Award. This award honors educators who shine brightly in their commitment to inclusive and innovative STEM education, ensuring all learners thrive in integrated learning environments.

Both schools and teachers are being recognized at the ITEEA Annual Conference April 2-5, 2025.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

This is presented for the Board’s information and recognition.

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**INITIATED BY:**

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Jen Anderson,  
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Governing Board

Date: March 28, 2025

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Todd A. Jagger, J.D., Superintendent