

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Basalt Middle School Teacher Receives Jared Polis Foundation Teacher Recognition Award**

BASALT, Colo... Basalt Middle School teacher Mary Bright recently received the Jared Polis Foundation's 2015 Teacher Recognition Award. Bright, who is a seventh grade science and literacy teacher, was one of only 10 teachers in the state of Colorado to receive this award. The award honors a teacher's dedication, hard work, and passion for the profession, and a teacher must be nominated in order to be eligible.

"Mary stays on the cutting edge of educational reform," said Principal Voss. "She implements new ideas, and she does it right. Her classroom is a highly reflective space where kids learn to be students. While she has awesome growth scores, students get so much more out of her class, and she does an excellent job of walking the line between character and academic learning. She's an amazing teacher."

Principal Voss nominated Bright for a variety of reasons, including her commitment to all types of learners, her effective teaching methods, her work to improve the school community, and her leadership and professional expertise among peers.

Every year since 2002, the Jared Polis Foundation has honored 10 Colorado public school teachers during May's National Teacher Appreciation Month. The mission of the foundation is to help support educators, increase access to technology, and strengthen communities. This year the foundation received nearly 60 nominations from across the state. In addition to state-wide recognition, a winning teacher receives a \$1,000 discretionary prize, a \$1,000 grant to improve a teacher's classroom and/or school, and a tablet of the teacher's choice.

For more information on Basalt Middle School, visit <http://bms.rfsd.k12.co.us/>.

For more information on the Jared Polis Foundation, visit <http://www.jaredpolisfoundation.org/>.



**Photo 1:** Mrs. Bright at the BMS Science Fair last year-- This year's science fair is Wednesday, May 20, from 6-8 p.m. in the gym.

**Photo 2:** Mrs. Bright helping 7<sup>th</sup> grade students with a dissection.

For high resolution versions of these photos, email [ajohnson@rfschools.com](mailto:ajohnson@rfschools.com)

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