

## Renton Prep Selected as Future of Education Technology Conference STEM Excellence Awards Finalist

RENTON, Wash. – Renton Prep was selected as a national STEM Excellence Awards Finalist in the Middle School Division at the National Future of Education Technology Conference (FETC), one of the nation's largest edtech conferences. One of nine finalists, Renton Prep was selected by the FETC STEM Advisory Board from among hundreds of applications and was recognized as one of the top 10 STEM programs in the nation. Applications were evaluated based on the use of interdisciplinary curriculum, collaboration, design, problem solving and the STEM experiences offered by each school.

“With STEM becoming increasingly important in classroom curriculum, we are thrilled to honor and highlight schools with exemplary STEM programs,” said FETC Program and Conference Manager Jennifer Womble.

STEM is the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics integrated into a cohesive learning paradigm based on real-world applications. Teachers are increasingly instructing this interdisciplinary approach as it relates to students' future success in college, careers and life. This engagement of the 4Cs (communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity) also provides students with the ability to compete in a new global economy with a workforce population rich in STEM skills and opportunities.

“Renton Prep is a school where students cannot just be a part of STEM, instead the students build curriculum,” said Mark Smith, Chairman of FETC STEM Excellence Awards Committee. “They start from one core idea for a project, such as culture and identity, which stemmed from a field trip to an art museum, branching out from there, connecting it to STEM as well larger topics. Examples include war, identity and gender studies.”

FETC's 36th annual conference took place at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, Jan. 12-15, where winners of the STEM Excellence Awards presented their exemplary programs. The awards ceremony was held at 8:30 a.m. Jan. 14 at FETC during the Thursday morning keynote with astronaut, engineer and former NFL player Leland Melvin. Each school presented their exemplar program in the STEM Theater at FETC.

“We want to make sure our attendees have the knowledge and skills to implement STEM in their classrooms,” said Womble. “What better way to learn than through experienced STEM educators themselves?”

FETC 2016 also featured dynamic speakers, exhibitors and events designed to provide pre-K – 12 educators and administrators with an unparalleled opportunity to explore different technologies while increasing their familiarity with the latest devices, hardware, software and successful strategies for student technology integration.

To learn more about the FETC 2016 STEM Excellence Awards, please visit [http://fetc.org/stem\\_awards.html](http://fetc.org/stem_awards.html). Join the conversation by following the conference on Twitter (@FETC) and using and searching the hashtag #FETC. For even more FETC updates, “like” FETC on Facebook and join the FETC LinkedIn group.

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About the Future of Education Technology Conference (FETC)

For 36 years, the Future of Education Technology Conference (FETC) has brought together education leaders and technology experts to exchange techniques and strategies for teaching and learning success. Known worldwide for its outstanding program, FETC provides educators and administrators the opportunity to explore the integration of technology across the curriculum — from pre-K - 12 — through hands-on exposure to the latest hardware, software and successful strategies.

#### About LRP Conferences, LLC

LRP Conferences, LLC, an affiliate of LRP Publications, produces more than a dozen professional conferences and trade shows annually, including: Campus Technology Conference, Transformational Technology in Higher Ed Conference, Ergonomics Conference & ErgoExpo, Future of Education Technology Conference (FETC), HR in Hospitality Conference, HR Technology® Conference & Exposition, Recruiting Trends Conference, and National Workers' Compensation and Disability Conference® & Expo.

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