

2020 T³™ Leadership Awards

The T³™ Leadership Award recognizes two instructors who have exemplified the ideals of the T³™ community. They have, through their work in education, epitomized the mission of T³™ and played an important leadership role in contributing to the community as a whole to make it stronger and better. They personify the alternative definition of T³™ as Teachers Teaching Teachers.

This year's recipients are Jeff McCalla and B. Michelle Rinehart.



Jeff McCalla

Early on in Jeff McCalla's math teaching career, he began using the TI-Navigator™ Classroom Learning System for the TI-84 Plus family of graphing calculators to assess student understanding and make immediate

adjustments to his lessons. When the TI-Nspire™ graphing calculator was released in 2007, he was part of a grant that provided an extended T³™ Teacher Leader Cadre (TLC) taught by Sam and Jill Gough. The T³™ TLC was so impactful on his teaching that McCalla began to think of himself as a leader in education and began to share what he was learning with others. He took the next step and became a T³™ instructor. Soon after, he co-founded the TI-Nspire™ Super Users group with Bryson Perry.

In 2009, McCalla received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. McCalla's high school English teachers would be surprised to learn that he authored the 2nd editions of "TI-Nspire™ for Dummies" and "TI-84 Plus Graphing Calculator for Dummies." McCalla also served as lead author for the recent ACT® and SAT® prep T³™ Workshops.



B. Michelle Rinehart

Michelle Rinehart's T³™ journey started when a colleague introduced her to the TI-Nspire™ CX graphing calculator and the T³™ community. As a science and mathematics teacher, the TI-Nspire™ and TI-Navigator™ technologies transformed

Rinehart's teaching practice. As a rural educator, the T³™ community connected Rinehart with inspirational and innovative educators who accelerated her professional growth.

For the past seven years, Rinehart has served as a regional mathematics consultant and a project director for professional development programs in Texas. During this time, she has been actively involved in numerous capacities within the T³™ community. She has served on a variety of professional development writing teams, created new activities for the TI-Innovator™ Hub with TI LaunchPad™ Board and TI-Innovator™ Rover, and advocated for partnerships between the T³™ community and state-wide professional development programs. Rinehart has also served as a keynote speaker at many regional, state and national events, as a T³™ Advisory Council member, and as a T³™ Teacher Leader Cadre (TLC) co-leader.

Rinehart speaks nationally about topics in mathematics and computer science education, including fostering teacher growth as teacher leaders, reflective practitioners and collaborative professionals. Rinehart recently served as a West Texas Team Leader for NCSM and on the Texas Association of Supervisors of Mathematics (TASM) board. She is currently a doctoral candidate in educational leadership at Harvard University. Rinehart continues her work as a mathematics specialist and instructional coach with a focus on helping teachers grow their practice and the profession.