

# AMGEN® Biotech Experience

## Scientific Discovery for the Classroom

### 2021 ABE Master Teacher Fellows



**Declan Cathcart**, representing ABE Ireland, is a biology teacher and a Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) associate at the Temple Carrig School. Declan has also served as the coordinator of PDST Amgen Teach Biotechnology CPD Program.



**Angela Del Toro** has served as a science instructor for the past 16 years, joining the program from ABE Puerto Rico, where she has served as an ABE teacher for more than 10 years. Angela creates and facilitates real-world experiences for her students, striving to provide opportunities for all of her students to achieve.



**Amanda Dillingham**, representing ABE Massachusetts, began her teaching career in Boston Public Schools, where she continues to serve as a teacher leader at East Boston High School. An ongoing goal of Amanda's is to help eliminate the opportunity gap that continues to persist in science education.



**Aidan Johnson**, representing ABE Australia, leads the science faculty at John Therry Catholic College. One of Aidan's interests is developing students' abilities to understand the variety of approaches to science and provide them with authentic, real-world science in the classroom.



**Paula Mittelberg**, an ABE teacher from The Netherlands, has been teaching high school biology since 2009. Paula takes a special interest in promoting self-confidence in her female students when it comes to science education. She strives to boost their confidence by encouraging them to celebrate successes and explore nontraditional STEM careers.



**James (Jimmy) Otero**, also joining the program from ABE Puerto Rico, serves as an ABE lead teacher supporting other educators to teach ABE in conjunction with differentiation techniques and problem-based learning. Jimmy has a passion for integrating ABE with other school subjects, including the Arts.

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**Urlette Reyes**, joining from ABE Greater Los Angeles Area, is a lifelong educator and coordinator at Daniel Webster Middle School & STEAM Magnet. She is involved in promoting and facilitating ABE programming at her site, as well as hosting a weekly session titled *College and Career Corner* for students.



**Tracy Serros**, from ABE San Francisco Bay Area, has been teaching biology and biotechnology for the past 7 years. Prior to her teaching, Tracy worked in academic research focusing on micro and molecular biology. Tracy is excited to join this fellowship to further explore how genetic databases support gene mapping, disease identification, and the development of treatments.



**Mark Schaeffer**, also joining the program from ABE The Netherlands, began his career in the lab. He now takes his lab experiences into the classroom, explaining his teaching style as that of a coach, stimulating students to make discoveries for themselves.



**Jodie Spitze**, representing ABE Washington State, has been teaching high school science since 2002. Jodie participated in a previous program where she partnered with an Amgen scientist to develop a biotech course targeted at engaging underrepresented students in the field, both ethnically and economically. Jodie strives to make her courses engaging for all students, creating inclusive activities so her students are successful in the field.



**David Upegui**, representing ABE Rhode Island, describes himself as a Latinx immigrant who found his way out of poverty through science. David has over 10 years' experience as an AP Biology and Anatomy teacher at his alma matter, Central Falls High School. David believes his job as a science educator is to foster critical thinking and support the development of inquiry skills in students.



**Lisa Yoneda**, joining from ABE San Diego, serves as an ABE presenter facilitating sessions for new and existing ABE teachers. Lisa has spent over 20 years as a biology instructor, currently at Mira Mesa High School. She also works with the local community college creating pathways for students to transition into the biotechnology industry.