



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Nicole Green, Animalearn

Phone: 1-800-729-2287 ext. 302

Email: [ngreen@animalearn.org](mailto:ngreen@animalearn.org)

## Science Educators Honored for Modeling Kindness in the Classroom



**Jenkintown, PA (January 2025)** – Science teachers from across the country were selected by the national humane science education program, Animalearn, for advocating for compassion in science education in 2024.

Top honor went to Ganesh Tiwari, high school science teacher at Nogales High School in Nogales, AZ who was selected as Animalearn’s **2024 Humane Science Educator of the Year**.

Animalearn additionally recognized three educators with Honorable Mentions for the important work they are doing to bring compassion into their classrooms. Those exceptional educators are Lauren Ortega, magnet teacher at William A. Pearson School in South Lyon, MI; Tammy Hakanson, science teacher at the Integrated Arts Academy in Chaska, MN; and Dr. Jacquelyn Foy, science educator at Hammonton High School, Hammonton, NJ.

“I am truly impressed with our selected Humane Science Educators! They stand out as role models not just for their students but also to their peers in the field of science education,” said Animalearn Director Nicole Green.

**Ganesh Tiwari** was selected as Animalearn’s Humane Science Educator of the Year because of his commitment to creating a compassionate classroom environment free of animal specimens. Instead, he opts to teach using non-animal alternatives including Merge EDU, an augmented reality system that includes explorations of frogs, sharks, and human anatomy. His resourceful approach to teaching demonstrates that excellence in life science education and humane methods go hand-in-hand.

Mr. Tiwari wrote, “The award of 'humane science educator' means a lot to me. It is a great honor to receive such a prestigious award. I have always been an advocate for humane science education whereby I try to find alternate ways of dissection to teach my students about biological specimens. I believe all living creatures deserve the right to live with dignity and respect and no living species should be harmed

for any reason. We need to be mindful and respectful towards all living organisms to maintain ecological balance and harmony in nature as some species may be endangered or may be useful to the environment.”

The three teachers receiving honorable mentions were recognized for making significant contributions to humane science education through their teaching styles.

Lauren Ortega, a Magnet Teacher at William A. Pearson School in South Lyon, MI, received an Honorable Mention because of her dedication to humane science. In her award entry, she wrote, “Humane experiences in science are needed to foster well-rounded future scientists who feel connected to and responsible for the world around them.” After learning of her honorable mention, she stated “To be recognized for humane science education is so meaningful to our classroom. This recognition highlights the importance of providing curious learners with engaging, hands-on opportunities to explore science concepts while also fostering inclusive and humane approaches to understanding the fascinating systems of animals.”

Our second honorable mention went to Tammy Hakanson, a Science Educator with the Integrated Arts Academy in Chaska, MN. In response to the news of her honorable mention, Tammy said, “Receiving this honorable mention award from Animalearn means my students can humanely explore, learn, and create. I am excited to offer alternatives to dissections in my biology classes as well as offering models for science in art projects.”

Our third honorable mention went to Dr. Jaquelyn Foy, a Science Instructor at Hammonton High School in Hammonton, NJ. Dr. Foy exclaimed, “I am deeply honored to be recognized as an Animalearn 2024 Honorable Mentioned Science Educator. This recognition affirms my commitment to fostering a compassionate and innovative approach to science education. By incorporating humane, hands-on resources into my classroom, I aim to inspire curiosity, critical thinking, and respect for all living beings in my students. Thank you, Animalearn, for supporting educators who prioritize humane science—this award will make a meaningful difference in our lessons!”

“These educators are demonstrating that humane science can be accomplished, and they are ensuring that their students grow into compassionate individuals,” said Alisa Brooks, Associate Director of Animalearn.

As part of the award, Animalearn will equip Ganesh Tiwari’s classroom with \$1,500 of new dissection alternatives technology. All recipients of honorable mentions will be provided humane science education resources valued at \$750 each.

*Animalearn, a division of the American Anti-Vivisection Society, works with educators, students, policy makers, and others to achieve quality humane science education without the harmful use of animals. Animalearn’s free loan program, The Science Bank, offers humane science products that enable educators to teach and students to learn anatomy, physiology, and psychology lessons without harming animals. For more information visit [TheScienceBank.org](http://TheScienceBank.org).*