



Emmely (Templeton) Briley
1998 Rev. James G. Anderson Award
2015 Glenn and Jane Crosby NW Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching

Emmely (Templeton) Briley got her start in chemistry with a 1992 Saturday Academy Apprenticeship in Science and Engineering (ASE) in the chemistry labs at the Bonneville Power Administration Ross Complex in Vancouver, WA. After earning her A.A. degree from Clark Community College in 1995, she began her double major in chemistry and physics at Portland State University. At PSU, she found tremendously supportive mentors. She learned lab management by working in the chemical stockroom with Larry Pardun. In 1996, the chemistry department hired her as an undergrad TA for the lab sections for general and organic chemistry. Professors Dr. Gwen Shusterman, Dr. David Peyton, and Dr. Dave McClure encouraged her all along the way. Physics professor Dr. Jon Abramson gave her the opportunity to work in his biophysics lab as an undergraduate research assistant on calcium uptake in the sarcoplasmic reticulum. In 1998, Emmely earned a summer internship at Stanford Research Institute through the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program studying the efficacy of ozone-doped solid oxygen as a potentially more energetic rocket fuel. After all of these wonderful experiences, Emmely graduated PSU in 1999 with B.S. in chemistry and physics and began work as a chemist at Chester LabNet in Tigard, OR.

After a short stint as a chemist, Emmely realized that what she had enjoyed most was her experience teaching undergraduate labs at PSU. She decided to pursue a teaching career and graduated from George Fox University in 2001 with an M.A. in teaching. She was hired right away to teach chemistry, AP chemistry, and physics at a small high school in Molalla, OR. During her 18-year career there, Emmely has worked hard to bring the same kind of wonderful opportunities she experienced to her students. In the early years, Emmely sent students to work in the physics lab of professor Dr. Andres La Rosa and in 2005, PSU recognized them both with an Excellence in Civic Engagement award for the partnership between the university and Molalla High School (MHS). She also brought students to compete in the BPA Regional Science Bowl and the Intel NW Science Fair. In 2011, Emmely created an annual STEM Showcase fair that is still going strong at MHS. In the same year, she got inspired by the Oregon Computer Science Teachers Association's (CSTA) Summer SuperQuest and started a robotics club that competed in FIRST Tech Challenge and Oregon VEX Robotics Challenge. In 2018, she had the privilege of taking the team to the VEX Robotics World Championship in Louisville, KY. In 2012, Emmely decided to do something about the fact that there were no engineering or computer science classes at MHS and began working with her school administration to bring Project Lead the Way (PLTW) engineering courses to the students there. In 2014, Emmely got certified through Oregon Tech (OIT) to teach PLTW classes Intro to Engineering Design and Principles of Engineering. MHS also now offers Human Body Systems, and Principles of Biomedical Science. In 2015, Emmely was recognized by the ACS NW Region with the Glenn and Jane Crosby award for Excellence in High School Teaching. She used the funds from the award to promote her ACS Chem Club at the high school and to take her students on field trips to the OSU Engineering Dept., Boeing Troutdale, and Portland Engineering Week.

Emmely enjoys introducing her students to STEM careers and all the amazing college and career opportunities Oregon has to offer. For continuing to encourage and inspire her as an educator, Emmely would like to thank the vibrant professionals who work through these excellent organizations throughout the state that were not already mentioned: Oregon Science Teachers Association (OSTA), South-Metro Salem STEM Partnership (SMSSP), Portland Metro STEM Partnership (PMSP), Clackamas Community College, and the Portland ACS Local Section.

Emmely Briley has been married to Buck Briley since 1999 and they have three daughters aged 16, 14, and 11.