

TPHS math teacher receives Wolfram Innovator Award



TPHS math teacher Abby Brown (right) with TPHS students at the Wolfram Technology Conference. (Courtesy)

Wolfram technologies have long been a major force in many areas of industry and research, according to a news release. Leaders in many top organizations and institutions play a major role in pushing the boundaries of how the Wolfram

technology stack is leveraged for innovation across fields and disciplines, the news release stated.

Founder and CEO Stephen Wolfram recently recognized eight such leaders with the Wolfram Innovator Award at the Wolfram Technology Conference in Champaign, Ill.

"It's always a pleasure to see very interesting people who end up becoming deeply invested in our technology and doing wonderful things with it," Wolfram said.

This year's winners included Torrey Pines High School math teacher Abby Brown, who was honored for "excellence in teaching computational thinking and mathematics to high school students." The news release said Brown develops innovative ways to get her students interested in STEM through 3D printing, mathematics clubs and lesson plans that incorporate artificial intelligence with Wolfram technologies.

Brown, who has a master's degree in mathematics and teaches college-level classes at TPHS, said she has been using Mathematica and the Wolfram Language with her students for about 20 years. Winners are nominated by Wolfram Research employees and selected by a panel of experts.

Brown attended and presented at the conference with five students: TPHS Seniors Emily Zhang, Likith Palabindela, Ryan Heo and Shannon Brownlee, along with 2018 graduate Isaac Gelman (now at USC). Brown said the students "did a phenomenal job with their presentations and had the opportunity to mingle with world-class professionals."

Brown and Isaac both received awards in the conference's annual One-Liner Competition where participants submit interesting things that can be coded with only 128 characters or less. Isaac won 2nd place (Computational Thinking: The Age Distribution 2018 Wolfram Technology Conference Dinner) and Brown earned 3rd place (Alphabet of Words) and an Honorable Mention (Flag Mosaic).

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