

Emerson Receives Innovative Science Teaching Award



Fall Creek fourth-grade teacher Jenny Emerson was honored with the Raymond C. Loehr Innovative Science Teaching Award at the Convocation on September 3. Managed by the Ithaca Public Education Initiative, the award was presented by Loehr's son, Stephen Yale-Loehr, and Ann Caren, IPEI board member and Awards Committee Chair.

Emerson was nominated for the award by Principal Mike Simons. "She regularly collaborates with her grade-level teaching

partners to coordinate instruction so that all students learn high-quality science that not only teaches important content but also incorporates experiential learning and meaningful activities," he said.

Emerson and her fourth-grade colleagues received an IPEI grant for the "Kids at the Creek" project, based on the Cayuga Lake Floating Classroom's "Trout in the Classroom," to create an activity-based science experience for their students. Working beside teachers, parents, and community partners, students conducted field studies, observing wildlife and habitats and tracking seasonal data. In addition, she collaborated with music and art teachers to integrate poetry, art, and music.

Loehr's family initiated the teaching award at the time of his 70th birthday in honor of his career as a science educator. It has been presented to nine different teachers from Ithaca's elementary and secondary schools. A second award in his honor is presented each June to a student who excels in environmental science.

IPEI is a community based not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that is committed to connecting school and community through collaboration, engagement, gifts and grants. For more information, see www.ipei.org or contact 256-IPEI (4734) or _____

