

Early College of Arvada Spotlight: Dr. Danielle Ladd

This September, ECA is shining a light on one of our many talented professors: Dr. Danielle Ladd. Dr. Ladd is a Westminster native and began her career as a research scientist in the R&D division of a small start-up company focused on removing heavy metals out of local drinking water. However, her love for teaching led her to earn her master's in education and become a secondary science teacher. For the past 5 years, Dr. Ladd has passionately focused on bringing her professional science experiences into her classroom at ECA, making chemistry and physics exciting, relatable and accessible to all students. Her work at ECA fits with Dr. Ladd's teaching philosophy, which focuses "not only on the academic growth of students, but their growth as whole humans".

When she is not in the classroom, Dr. Ladd is an NSF-REU Teacher Fellow researcher at the Colorado School of Mines and has worked the last three years with the Critical Materials Institute and CSM developing educational toolkits, museum exhibits, and conference workshops for other local educators. This past year, she was recognized as one of **Colorado's Outstanding Educators by the University of Colorado Boulder** and continually strives to bring innovative science education to her students. Dr. Ladd holds a Ph.D. in chemistry from Arizona State University and a M.A. in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education from University of Colorado, Denver.

Dr. Ladd is one of seven teachers with a Ph.D. at ECA, and like many of our teachers she also brings significant experience practicing her subject outside the classroom. This real-world experience helps students make connections between academics and their lives, giving our students a significant head start as they plan their careers and decide on a college major. Dr. Ladd is a great fit for ECA's student body, noting that "Our students consistently step up to challenges, face set-backs head on, and persevere to create a future that is uniquely their own. They inspire me on a daily basis." Todd Cordrey, Executive Director of ECA, adds that "Dr. Ladd's recent recognition as one of UC-Boulder's Outstanding Educators only confirms what we at ECA have known for the last five years: that she is a highly talented and passionate educator."

ECA prepares students for success in college starting in grade 6, and students begin taking college classes in grade 11. All college courses are taught on ECA's secure campus from highly qualified professors like Dr. Ladd, leading to 60 college credit hours by graduation (representing \$30,000+ in savings). If you think your student could benefit from taking classes from teachers like Dr. Ladd who combine real-world experience with a passion for teaching middle and high schoolers, please contact Executive Director Todd Cordrey today at 720-473-4403.