

Celebrating Excellence in STEM Education



At Clark College, we know that great teaching transforms lives – and now the nation knows it too. We're pleased to share that Dr. Karl Bailey, Professor of Chemistry at Clark College, has been named a 2025 Golden Goggles Award Winner by Science Interactive. This national recognition honors educators who are changing the game in science education, and Dr. Bailey was selected as this year's Pedagogy Pioneer of the Year—one of just six winners across the country.

Dr. Bailey is known for his ability to bring chemistry to life. Whether he's building inclusive research spaces or designing courses that make complex science both accessible and engaging, he puts students at the center of everything he does.

As a winner in this category, Dr. Bailey demonstrates exceptional teaching expertise through innovative approaches, curriculum development, and a proven commitment to student success. He uses creative instructional methods that make complex scientific concepts accessible, engaging, and even fun. His work represents a commitment to making pedagogy – not just content – a central part of student success in science classrooms.

"One of my favorite parts of online learning spaces is providing access and opportunity not just to our students, but to the people around them," said Dr. Bailey. "These shared moments of learning can help demystify science – and sometimes even inspire family members to pursue careers that require lab skills. That's what makes higher education truly transformative."

It's that kind of thinking – equity-focused, innovative, and student-centered – that sets Dr. Bailey apart. He doesn't just teach content. He reimagines how learning happens.

Championing Student Success in STEM

At Clark, Dr. Bailey plays a key role in shaping the future of our STEM programs. He's helped expand course-based undergraduate research, developed curriculum aligned with students' interests and goals, and collaborated on the creation of shared research spaces for both students and faculty.

"Dr. Bailey's approach to teaching is rooted in equity. He is deeply committed to his students' success and plays a vital role in advancing our STEM programs," said Dr. Theo Koupelis, Clark College Dean of WPTE & STEM. "His leadership in Guided Pathways initiatives, development of shared research spaces for students and faculty, expansion of course-based undergraduate research opportunities, and creation of a curriculum that reflects students' interests and goals makes him an integral part of our efforts to improve STEM education—particularly in strengthening our Chemistry offerings."

Recognizing Innovation on a National Scale

The Golden Goggles awards are evaluated by a panel of scientists and curriculum experts who look for educators making a measurable impact on student success. Dr. Bailey's work stood out for his creativity in the classroom, his dedication to inclusive science education, and his vision for how learning can ripple beyond campus walls.

"Dr. Bailey isn't just teaching chemistry – he's creating opportunities for science to reach beyond the classroom. Whether teaching online or on campus, his commitment to

pedagogical innovation invites students to engage with science in their everyday lives, sparking curiosity not just in learners, but in the families and communities around them,” said Sasha Peterson, CEO of Science Interactive.

Nominations for the 2026 Golden Goggles awards will open next year. For more information, visit scienceinteractive.com/interactive-science-educators-award.

About Clark College STEM

Clark College’s STEM degrees and certificates equip students with hands-on, real-world experience in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The program is anchored by a state-of-the-art, 70,000-square-foot STEM building featuring advanced labs, a high-tech makerspace, and unique learning tools like a 44-foot drop tower. With small class sizes, cutting-edge labs, expert faculty, and a collaborative learning environment, the program prepares students for transfer to a four-year university or entry into high-demand careers in today’s tech-driven world.

Learn more about how Clark is shaping the next generation of scientists, engineers, and problem solvers at <https://www.clark.edu/academics/programs/science-technology-and-engineering/>.