

Bio for Lalitha Murali

Lalitha Murali is a gifted and talented teacher for the Glendale River-Hills School District. 16 years ago, when she started her job as a gifted and talented teacher, she noticed that there were only a handful of immigrant and minority children in the gifted programs. Lalitha's belief is that given the right resources and experiences, every child can reach his/her true potential. Through starting educational outreach programs and organizing workshops, she started to reach out to the underrepresented groups in her school and her community. Today, she has strong advanced-level programming for all of her students where more minority and immigrant children are participating. Lalitha was chosen as one of the top 20 Women of Influence Awardees in Wisconsin for her educational leadership in 2017. She was also chosen as one of the top 21 International Rotary Peace Fellows in 2019 and spent three months in Thailand. She is one of the 2023 Kohl's Fellows for her skill as a leader and agent for positive change and her superior ability to inspire a love of learning. Her commitment to advancing STEM education has earned her recognition as the 2023-24 Globant STEM Award Winner for the Inspiring Leader Category for the USA and Canada region.

As the President of the Wisconsin Science Education Foundation, she organizes and conducts the Badger State Science and Engineering Fair every year for WI students. Her goal is to close the opportunity gap that exists among the inner-city and suburban school districts and provide opportunities for inner-city students to participate in science fairs and other STEM programs. Lalitha's students designed two microgravity experiments for NASA last year. She will be flying in a Zero-G flight to conduct those experiments sometime in December. Lalitha's remarkable contributions to STEM education, dedication to fostering diversity and inclusion, and tireless efforts to empower students to reach for the stars make her an outstanding STEM educator.