

**2021 Teacher of the Year Nominations**  
**Carlisle High School**  
*Mrs. Leslie Tritt*  
*Mr. Robert Smetana*

**Mrs. Leslie Tritt:**

I have always loved animals, nature, and children. I grew up in picturesque Fulton County playing sports, taking care of various animals, and actively participating in church. I often babysat my nephews and I just loved sharing what I knew about nature with them. We would catch salamanders & crayfish in the creek, go for walks in the woods, catch antlions in the dirt by the barn, and we would try to identify unknown critters we would find on our adventures. This is how I knew I wanted to be a teacher.

Over the past 15 years as a Biology and AP Environmental Science teacher at Carlisle High School I have helped in various capacities with Envirothon, Furry Friends Club, Green Club, Letort Environmental Center, and field hockey. I love building relationships with students, helping them reach their potential, and sharing my passion for all things outdoors with them.

My husband and I have three wonderful children, ages 4, 3, and 5 months. We enjoy spending time with them on our little farmette where we raise Miniature Nubian dairy goats and also have a quarter horse, mini pony, chickens, guineas, cats, a snake, and a dog! We enjoy going for walks, sometimes with the goats and always with our dog. Our family is active and often outdoors, playing, gardening, exploring, and just enjoying family time.

**Mr. Robert (Bob) Smetana:**

I earned my degree in Earth & Space Science/Environmental Education from Shippensburg University. My first and only teaching job has been here at the Carlisle Area School District for the past 23 years. I teach Honors Geo-Environmental and AP Environmental. For the past 4 years, I have been involved with and in charge of our Envirothon Club.

I became a teacher because I love my content and enjoy the experience of entertaining students as they observe and discover what science is all about. My teaching philosophy is based on something I read years ago in that "a student does not care how much you know, until they know how much you care". Therefore, forming relationships with students is extremely important as I try to create a classroom environment that is fun, positive, and open to questions about everyday events and issues in the real world.