

“Don’t Bring a Test Tube to a Bunsen Burner Fight: Connecting Activist STEM Education with Policy”



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Kyle Morrow Room, Fondren Library

Dr. Barnett is an internationally recognized, award winning (2012 CASE Professor of the Year) expert in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education with a research focus on teaching science to students in urban areas. He uses innovative tools such as indoor hydroponic vertical farms to teach K-12 students to grow vegetables and sell their own produce at local farmer’s markets. Through this seed to market experience, students learn topics such as environmental science, engineering, botany, nutrition, sustainability and economics.

A self-described “recovering astrophysicist” from Kentucky, he caught the teaching bug when he was tapped to teach a lesson about the moon to “immensely inquisitive fifth-graders” while he was working on his PhD in astrophysics. He went on to earn a doctorate in instructional systems technology with an emphasis in science education from Indiana University. His students describe him as a “rock star” and “the most genuinely inspiring role model of effective instruction” because of his deep passion for educating people on how to teach science.

