Jenelle received her BS in chemistry from the California State University Chico. She went on to graduate school and received her MS in Chemistry from University of California Santa Cruz.

While teaching labs as a graduate student, Jenelle fell in love with the learning process and chose to pursue a career in high school teaching. Upon completion of her credential at California State University Chico, she began teaching in Corning California, a small agricultural community. After two years, Jenelle moved to Chico High School where she continues to teach chemistry and serve as department chair.

In the fall of 1998, Jenelle received a rare sabbatical leave to study at the University of California Santa Barbara. During that year of study, she earned her MA degree in teaching and learning science. Jenelle has several publications in the Journal of Chemical Education, has received several grants and numerous recognitions for her commitment to chemical education.

In 2015, she was awarded the James Bryant Conant Award for recognition of excellence in high school teaching sponsored by the American Chemical Society and Thermo Fisher Scientific.

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