

2002

Awards and Recognition, Iowa Academy of Science, 2002

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AWARDS AND RECOGNITION IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE 2002

DISTINGUISHED IOWA SCIENCE TEACHING

Gary Atchison

"Dr. Gary Atchison's intuitive ability to realize his student's capabilities has had a profound effect on me and my fellow students." This is a statement from one of Dr. Atchison's students and is reflective of others who supported his nomination for the Distinguished Iowa Science Teaching Award. Dr. Atchison has a record of excellence in teaching and service to Iowa State University students, in addition to making significant contributions to science as a researcher within the Department of Animal Ecology. His teaching excellence stems from his great interest in students, his dedication to science and his profession, and his scholarly leadership.

Throughout his long career, Dr. Atchison has made inspired contributions to the education of a large number of undergraduate and graduate students in several fields of science. His consistently rigorous teaching style and his deep concern for the educational goals of students have made him a valued mentor and colleague. The diversity and depth of his knowledge, his generosity of time, his clarity of thought and explanation, and his true caring for students make him a highly deserving recipient of this award.

Students and faculty alike recognize the quality of Dr. Atchison's teaching. He has taught an extraordinary number and diversity of courses in biology, ecology and environmental science, receiving accolades for his teaching accomplishments from students and recognition by his peers. His student evaluations have consistently ranked among the best in the Department of Animal Ecology. This record of teaching excellence has been recognized through his receipt of four major awards at Iowa State University, including the title of University Professor, which is held for life by only a few faculty who have made distinguished contributions in teaching and service.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

David V. McCalley

Dr. David McCalley has been a member and Fellow of the Iowa Academy of Science for the past 35 years and is in his final year as Executive Director. During his long tenure in the Academy, he was a member and then chair of the Recognition and Awards Committee, was active in the Science Teaching Section, and served as a member of the Board of Directors, but a good argument could be made for this award based just upon his service as Executive Director since 1998.

Upon assuming the position of Executive Director, Dave recognized the need to establish accounting methods to track the finances of the Academy and reconcile past accounts. He also had to manage dwindling assets and plan how to keep the IAS solvent. The status of the Parish Farm had reached a point that required difficult decisions. Dave took it upon himself to learn alternative farm management options and what was needed in running a modern farm. When it became clear that we might need to sell the property, he provided leadership in dealing with selling agricultural land and in investing the assets. Through this process Dave activated the Board to look closer at all matters of business before the Academy and to become more active leaders. As a result of his leadership, the Board today is a smarter, more responsible body.

Although the Executive Director is only a half-time position, Dave has treated it as full-time, volunteering his time, efforts, energy, and attention to the Academy. From bringing in grants that help support the organization, to maintaining a professional business office with quality people, Dave has made a great difference in how our Academy has functioned and evolved over these past few years.

EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE TEACHING MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCIENCE

Lynne Campbell

Lynne Campbell is an active change-agent at Woodward-Granger Community School, leading the charge to improve instructional and assessment practices. Her move to the middle level from high school, though timorous, has blossomed to be a brilliant career move. Lynne uses her diverse expertise with learners of all levels to lead curricular reform and to mentor new teachers. She positions herself to be a school catalyst through engagement with state and national science teacher organizations.

As a teacher, Ms. Campbell prioritizes her students in a *student-centered* approach to teaching, where the teacher is a facilitator of ideas. Ideas flourish in her classroom, which includes a Zoo of creatures—from fish to spiders to rats to doves. Grand concepts and applications are prioritized over the memorization of disjointed facts in her busy science lab. High expectations combined with lively and engaging inquiry experiences account for Lynne's success in the classroom, where the only complaint mustered by students is that science class is "over so fast."

EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE TEACHING PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Michael Blair

Michael Blair is not only a talented and dedicated science teacher and dynamic member of his school faculty at Theodore Roosevelt High School in Des Moines, but he is also actively involved in improving science education beyond his own four walls. Mr. Blair has made numerous presentations to teacher groups on physics, geology, and prairie topics. He is an active member of several organizations that promote science teaching, and he works with other teachers to bring curricular innovation to their own schools.

In the classroom, Mr. Blair advocates National Science Teaching Standards and brings them to life for the betterment of his students. He prioritizes relevancy by linking the abstractions of physics to the daily lives of his students, including the use of musical instruments, stained glass, and speeding tickets, to convey basic physics principles. His novel use of Star Trek video excerpts to explore myths and realities of physics has garnered praise from many fellow educators.

EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE TEACHING EARTH/SPACE/ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Susan Vogel

Susan Vogel is an active member of a number of local, state, and national organizations dedicated to science teaching excellence. She

serves on boards and committees as well as contributing through leadership in conference presentations and articles for the benefit of other teachers. Her innovative earth science educational ideas, many of which are the result of grant funding, bring to life the stars, rockets, and plate tectonics, for her students at Jefferson High School in Cedar Rapids. It is hard to find a fault in Ms. Vogel's approach to teaching.

In the classroom, Ms. Vogel prioritizes a conveyance of the excitement of science. She models a passion coupled with fundamental knowledge as key to success, supporting and encouraging high goals for learners who catch her enthusiasm like a fever. Ms. Vogel never loses sight of the individuals who make up a science class and works hard to meet the unique needs and interests of each student.