

1986

Science Notes - Iverson and Olsen Honored with Presidential Awards

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Recommended Citation

Althof, Stephanie A. (1986) "Science Notes - Iverson and Olsen Honored with Presidential Awards," *Iowa Science Teachers Journal*: Vol. 23: No. 2, Article 9.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/istj/vol23/iss2/9>

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SCIENCE NOTES

Iverson and Olsen Honored With Presidential Awards

The White House recently announced the names of 108 teachers honored with Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching. Iowa teachers Ross L. Iverson (science) from Miller Junior High of Marshalltown and Christopher R. Olsen (mathematics) from Washington Senior High School of Cedar Rapids were among the recipients of this prestigious award.

Each year, two teachers from each state are chosen to receive the award. Iverson and Olsen, along with the other 106 recipients, visited Washington, D.C., from October 21-24 to attend official Washington functions held in their honor, and share their teaching expertise with other educators.

In addition to the recognition that accompanies the award, recipients are presented with a Presidential citation, a \$5000 grant from the National Science Foundation, a four-day, expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., and numerous other gifts from private sector contributors (including personal computers, software, books, journal subscriptions, laboratory equipment and the like).

The Presidential Awards for Excellence are based on classroom performance, student progress and other professional activities of the teacher. To be eligible for the award, a teacher must have five or more years teaching experience and teach science or mathematics in a public or private middle, junior high or senior high school at least half-time. Teachers may be nominated by colleagues, administrators, students or parents of students. More information about the program may be obtained by calling 202-328-5800 and asking for Debbie Watkins.

— S.A.A.

Iowa Student Among SSIP Winners

Timothy D. Beacom, a student at North High School in Sioux City, Iowa, was among the top three award winners at the 1985-86 Space Science Student Involvement Program (SSIP) Competition. Beacom was awarded third place for his experiment titled "Ion Bombardment of Ice."

As one of seven regional finalists who attended the SSIP conference at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, Beacom spent his time touring the Kennedy Space Center, giving a formal presentation of his proposal and attending an awards banquet at which the featured speaker was astronaut Robert L. Crippen, pilot of the first orbital test flight of the Shuttle Columbia and commander of three subsequent flights. The seven regional finalists were selected from more than 1500 high school students throughout the country who submitted proposals.

As winner of third place in the competition, Beacom will receive a \$1000 scholarship from the National Science Teachers Association presented in memory of astronaut Ellison Onizuka. The scholarship will be applied to Beacom's tuition costs at the University of Iowa.

World Book, Inc. also honored the winners with a day at the Disney EPCOT Center and an informal reception and dinner. Beacom and his high school will also receive a set of World Book Encyclopedias.

— S.A.A.