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Spotlighting Excellence

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SPOTLIGHTING EXCELLENCE

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This article begins a continuing series of personal sketches concerning recipients of the annual Iowa Academy of Science Excellence in Science Teaching Awards. In this article, the recipients of the awards in biology and elementary science teaching will be featured.

Excellence in Biology Teaching

Mr. Owen Primavera teaches physical science, chemistry and biology at Milford Community High School in Milford, Iowa, and is the 1977 recipient of the Excellence in Science Teaching Award in Biology. Owen's teaching focuses on the Iowa Great Lakes Region by featuring field trips which analyze the natural habitats of the area and man's impact upon them. Owen's sincere interest in science, and his dedication to students, provides the background for quality classroom instruction and maximum student performance.

Owen sponsors a 50 member science club which is involved with school and community activities. Some recent involvements have included a clean-up drive along twelve miles of Highway 71, participation in a Little Sioux water analysis study and sponsorship of community health fairs.

Owen sums up his teaching philosophy as follows: "I would like to help my students learn more about themselves, and in doing so, find a place for themselves in society. Academics are important, but so is self-pride. I would like to be a positive force in molding the lives of my students."

Owen has been a regional winner in a local Soil Conservation Award Program and has published in the *Iowa Science Teachers Journal* and *The Science Teacher*.

Excellence in Elementary Science Teaching

Ms. Diana Brill, of Ankeny's Southeast Elementary School, is the 1977 recipient of the Excellence in Elementary Science Teaching Award. Her teaching focuses on the use of *Elementary Science Study* materials interspersed with a liberal amount of environmental education. Diana's enthusiasm for her work makes her willing to give the time and energy to start new projects. Many projects involve out-of-the-classroom activities. These include bike trips to local parks and bus trips to more distant places like the Des Moines Recycling Center. For students showing a special aptitude in science, she plans additional activities on weekends. These activities include hikes in Brown's Woods, visits to the Des Moines Science Center and Planetarium, and field trips to Red Rock Dam. Her students have made filmstrips on land conservation and pollution which are used as instructional tools in schools other than Ankeny's.

Diana sums up her teaching philosophy by using the following quote by Goethe: "If you treat an individual as he is, he will stay as he is, but if you treat him as if he were what he ought to be and could be, he will become what he ought to be and could be."

Congratulations are in order for both recipients! Keep up the good work!