

DISTINGUISHED SECONDARY SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER AWARD: 2004

JAN COLEY

Dandridge, Tennessee

Ms. Jan Coley accepts the Tennessee Academy of Science (TAS) Distinguished Secondary School Science Teacher Award plaque from TAS Junior Division Director Dr. Jack Rhoton.

Jan Coley was the recipient of the prestigious 2004 Tennessee Academy of Science Distinguished Secondary School Science Teacher Award. Ms. Coley, a biology, science research and design, and Advanced Placement biology teacher at Jefferson County High School in Dandridge Tennessee, received the award on November 20, 2004 during the annual Tennessee Science Teachers Association (TSTA) conference held in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Tennessee Academy of Science initiated the award program in 1977 to recognize excellence in secondary science teaching. This award is given annually to one science teacher in Ten-

nessee who has made significant contributions to science teaching and learning. In addition to the award and a trip to the TSTA meeting, Ms. Coley received a plaque and a \$500 cash award from the TAS.

Ms. Coley received her Bachelor of Science (BS) and Master of Science (MS) degrees from Auburn University. She has completed additional graduate work at the University of Tennessee, earning a certification in Earth and Space Science; and earned a Masters plus 45 hours certification from Tusculum College. She also has participated in numerous professional development activities and service projects.

Ms. Coley has made many contributions to science education. Her service to teaching is long-term and outstanding. She is widely recognized as an individual who demonstrates excellence in her science teaching. Her efforts and hard work have been instrumental in planning and implementing innovative and exemplary science programs in her school. For example, she actively involves her students in the Tennessee Junior Academy of Science and the Tennessee Science and Humanities Symposium as well as other science competitions. During recent years she has mentored students for the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair; accompanied students to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair; developed programs for HYPER-LINK (summer enrichment program for grades 4–8); and participated in several grant programs. She is the co-author of a Tennessee Higher Education Commission grant submitted for possible funding for 2005. Ms. Coley has attended and made presentations at the National Science Teachers Association, American Biology Teachers Associations, Tennessee Technology Conference, and the TSTA.

Ms. Coley is recognized for her abilities to create effective learning environments for her students to become actively involved in inquiry and problem solving. She provides opportunities for her students to ask thought provoking questions about the world and engages her students to answer them. She incorporates the use of “hands-on minds-on” and process-oriented activities for the benefit of students’ prior knowledge construction and learning. Consistent with her innovative approach to teaching, Ms. Coley also was recognized as the 2000 Outstanding Science Teacher in East Tennessee.