

## DISTINGUISHED SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER AWARD: 2008

The recipient of the Tennessee Academy of Science (TAS) Distinguished Secondary School Teacher Award for 2008 was **Sarah Elizabeth Millsap**. Ms. Millsap, a Chemistry 1 and Advanced Chemistry teacher at Blackman High School in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, received the award November 21, 2008, during the joint meeting of the of the Tennessee Academy of Science and the Tennessee Science Teachers Association held in Nashville at the Sheraton Music City.

Begun in 1997 by TAS, this award is given annually to a science teacher in Tennessee who has made significant contributions to science teaching and learning. Ms. Millsap received a plaque and a \$500 cash award from TAS.

Ms. Millsap has made many contributions and offered many services to science education. She is widely recognized as an individual who demonstrates excellence in her science teaching. Through her efforts, hard work, and many positive attributes, Ms. Millsap has been instrumental in planning and implementing innovative programs in her school.

For example, she coaches students to participate in the American Chemical Society Chemistry Olympiad, coaches students to participate in the Expanding Youth Horizons Conference, sponsors students in the Key Club for developing school and community projects, and mentors first-year teachers in the teacher induction program. Her students consistently participate in science competition programs for which she is an active sponsor for these events.

She has also assisted in the development of innovative curriculum activities for her students, including experiments to be performed by Governor's School students.

She has been involved in a variety of professional development activities. These include receiving a 2005-2006 STEP MT Research Grant for Biodiesel Research at MTSU, attending a 2005 Flinn Foundation Workshop in Chicago, and attending the BC3 Academy of Math and Science Teachers and College Board Advanced Placement Institute. She has been actively involved in professional organizations, including the Tennessee Science Teachers Association and the National Science Teachers Association. Many of her former students pursue studies in STEM fields.

Ms. Millsap is an award winning teacher. She is the recipient of the Blackman High School Teacher of the Year Award in 2005-2006 and the Kentucky-Tennessee Key Club Advisor of the Year Award for 2007-2008. She also received the Salute to Excellence Award from the American Chemical Society in 2004.

She 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' learning.

Ms. Millsap received her Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in chemistry at UT Knoxville in 1999 and was named the Outstanding Chemistry Major at UT in 1999. She received her Master of Science (M.S.) in Secondary Education with a concentration in chemistry at UT Knoxville in 2000.