

Sara Beam, 2018 Classroom Teacher of the Year Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association (MAMEA)

Rachel Clark
MAMEA Awards Committee Chair

Each year, we honor selected colleagues for their stellar work in marine education. Based on nominations submitted by their peers, one Classroom Teacher and one Informal Educator are recognized. Additionally, the MAMEA President may acknowledge a highly valued colleague with the President's Award.

At the 2018 MAMEA Conference in Portsmouth, VA, out-going President Lauren Albright had the honor of presenting three awards this year during the Annual Business Meeting on November 10.

Sara Beam received MAMEA's 2018 Classroom Educator Award. She was not able to attend this year's conference, but was presented the award in her classroom before the holidays. Sara teaches two courses in Foundations in Marine and Environmental Sciences at Chesapeake Bay Governor's School. She engages sophomores, juniors, and seniors from the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck regions of Virginia. She connects students to their community through activities such as growing oysters, monitoring water quality, identifying plants and animals in various habitats, and understanding the social connections of environmental restoration. Sara is very interested in climate change and how it impacts the communities where her students and their families live. She has put a great deal of thought into developing curriculum that will help her students understand the science of climate change and sea level rise and how this will affect livelihoods, homes, and ecosystems. She instills an infectious sense of wonder in her students and many have gone onto college and careers connected to the foundations she provides.

Sara has been working for 25 years to be an inspiration to thousands of students and she gives her time freely to them and her community. She ensures all students have a hands-on, active learning opportunity in marine and environmental science. She combines this with several speaking assignments to ensure the next generation of scientists have a foundation in effective communication as well as a solid foundation of scientific principles. She has been an active member of MAMEA since 2009 by attending and presenting at conferences. She has been a long-standing and active coach for the Blue Crab Bowl and has worked to sponsor awards for participating student's teams. Congratulations and great job on all the wonderful work Sara!

