

The Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Honors Elizabeth Miller of Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center



Photo caption: Elizabeth Miller (left), the 2010 Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Non-Traditional Educator award winner, receives her plaque from MAMEA President Tami Lunsford.

Photo credit: Allison Besch, MAMEA

The Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association (MAMEA), representing marine science in the classroom, at research institutions, aquariums, museums and governmental agencies from North Carolina to Delaware, has honored Elizabeth Miller with the 2010 Non-Traditional Educator Award. The presentation was announced at the group's annual conference on October 2, 2010 in Wilmington, NC. Ms. Miller is currently the School Program Specialist at the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center in Virginia Beach.

Elizabeth Miller holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in education and a teaching certification from Elizabethtown College (PA) and Old Dominion University, respectively. She draws on her previous experience as a classroom teacher to maximize the students' experience while visiting the Virginia Aquarium. Her accomplishments include her work with the "Oceans of Opportunity", a program designed to bring hands-on marine education to residents of a local Juvenile Detention Center. "We have been amazed at how these teens, mostly boys, have responded to hands-on science and to Elizabeth's enthusiastic personality," said Chris Witherspoon, Education Director at the Virginia Aquarium. "Her combination of experience in both the classroom and at the Aquarium allows her to relate to teachers and develop...programs that go beyond what is normally offered in the classroom."

In addition to her work at the Aquarium, Ms. Miller is very active in the MAMEA organization. She has given presentations at both the regional and national levels and helped to organize and administer the 2010 MAMEA annual conference on October 1-2, 2010. With this award, MAMEA is proud to acknowledge Elizabeth Miller's commitment to marine science and education.