

# Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Award Winners



## 2017

### Category: **Classroom Educator Award**

#### **MAMEA's 2017 Classroom Educator Award presented to Jaclyn Miller.**

Jaclyn began her formal teaching career during the 2016-2017 school year, after receiving her Master's degree from the School of Education at the College of William and Mary. It was immediately and abundantly clear that she had brought her informal education experiences along for the ride. She has made it her mission to incorporate as many hands-on and field-based activities into her classroom curriculum as possible, making learning active and fun. Most notably, she has exposed her students to live oyster reef inhabitants using oyster habitat cages, and has spent one of her lunch breaks dissecting a dogfish shark so that interested students could come in to observe its internal anatomy. She received the Toano Middle School Teacher of the Year Award in 2016 and went on to win the James City County's Middle School Teacher of Year Award.



Jaclyn received her award from MAMEA President Christopher Petrone at the 2017 MAMEA Annual Conference in Ocean City, Maryland.  
Photo: C.Hopper Brill.

An active and dedicated member of both the MAMEA and NMEA communities since 2012, Jaclyn has provided numerous concurrent session presentations at MAMEA, as well as at NMEA annual conferences. An enthusiastic and vocal advocate for both organizations, Jaclyn encourages new and prospective members to become involved in mini-conferences and other professional development opportunities. She has been spreading the word about MAMEA benefits, like the mini-grants, to her coworkers and educator friends. And, Jaclyn has served on the MAMEA Board as the Virginia State Representative (2014-2016) and as a member of the conference scholarship committee.

Jaclyn is described as “extremely committed to science education... with a special passion for marine ecosystems.” She regularly goes above and beyond her typical job responsibilities. She has taken the initiative to engage with former science colleagues in order to integrate aspects of current marine research and education into many of her classroom lessons. In addition, Jaclyn has taken part in a variety of professional development opportunities, including the Jefferson Lab's Science Activities for Teachers program and the Virginia Scientists and Educators Alliance at VIMS, gleaned cutting edge resources to use in the classroom. Spending a significant amount of her childhood at the beach, Jaclyn's enthusiasm for the ocean started early. This love has matured through a variety of academic and professional pursuits: from her days as a Marine Biology major at UNC Wilmington to her many years of informal education experience. Jaclyn started her career as an educator as an intern at the University of Georgia's Marine Education Center and Aquarium, then worked at the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher. Jaclyn went on to a position as a Marine Education Specialist at the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve on the campus of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science Campus, where she served for over three years. Then, she set her sights on a teaching credential and making a contribution to science through formal education. Jaclyn's record and this award show she has succeeded admirably in both environments. Kudos, Jaclyn!