

Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Award Winners



2015

Category: Classroom Educator Award

MAMEA's 2015 Classroom Educator Award was presented to Tami Lunsford. Tami has a solid science background, including a BS in Environmental Science from the University of Delaware, and a MS in Marine Science from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (where she may have developed her first hands-on outreach programs for high school students) . Other foundational experiences influencing her teaching come from 15 years' of facilitating professional learning opportunities for teachers and undergraduate internships for NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research and the Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center. Tami also spent one year in Hawai'i teaching high school science, where she developed a program to get students out of the classroom, doing real science investigations in local aquatic environments. In addition to almost ten years' experience teaching at the undergraduate level, including at the University of Delaware, Tami now has five years of inspired high school classroom teaching experience under her belt.

Tami currently teaches Biology and Advanced Placement Biology at the Newark Charter High School in Newark, DE, which she helped establish in 2013. There, her efforts extend far beyond her own classroom and she also serves in a long list of additional roles at her school: member of the Principal's Leadership Council; member of the Common Ground Team (conducting professional development for implementation of the Common Core Standards); 10th grade advisor; and more. In the broader marine education community, Tami continues part-time responsibilities with the NOAA and MATE positions noted earlier. Among all of these "day job" and part-time duties, she is incredibly active in both the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association (MAMEA) and National Marine Educators Association (NMEA). Within MAMEA, Tami has served the roles of President, Delaware Representative, and Chapter Representative to NMEA. At the national level, Tami has served NMEA as a Board Director, Chair of NMEA's Expanding Audiences Committee, and is now NMEA President-elect. She flawlessly bridged these two organizations as the co-chair of the 2014 NMEA annual conference, hosted by MAMEA in Annapolis, Maryland.

Here are just a few of the glowing recommendations endorsing Tami's accomplishments:

✦From a Parent at Newark Charter School:

"Tami Lunsford stands out among the outstanding staff assembled at Newark Charter High School, and we are very happy that [our son] will likely have her as a classroom teacher several times before graduation for biology, marine science, and perhaps AP Biology as well as adviser for his favorite activity [Chesapeake Bay Bowl]. We suspect she will be one of those transformative teachers who will make a huge difference in his life."



MAMEA is proud to recognize Tami Lunsford with its 2015 Classroom Educator Award. Tami received the MAMEA honor in her classroom - following the 2015 MAMEA Conference - when Delaware colleague Chris Petrone made a surprise presentation. Photo by Sharon Dorr.

*Dr. Lisa Ueltzhoffer, Principal, Newark Charter School:

“Tami’s passion and dedication to her students, our school and her professional community is unmatched. She is a leader of leaders and a true team member. I am constantly amazed with quality and quantity of her contributions. She is most deserving of being celebrated.”

*Dr. Jack Bartley, Faculty Director, University of Delaware Associate in Arts Program:

“Tami is the best science teacher I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. She is passionate about her work and most importantly, about the students. I wish I had just half of her energy. Her commitment to excellence in all phases of her work is reflected in the appraisals the students would deliver at the end of each semester. Tami would always receive the highest rating of any instructor in the program.”