

The Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Honors Dawn Sherwood of Highland Springs High School



Photo caption: Dawn Sherwood (left), 2010 Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Teacher of the Year, 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 Dawn Sherwood of Henrico County Public Schools with the 2010 Teacher of the Year Award. The presentation was announced at the group's annual conference on October 2, 2010 in Wilmington, NC. Ms. Sherwood is currently a high school oceanography and biology teacher at Highland Springs High School in Henrico County, VA.

Ms. Sherwood holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in biology from Old Dominion University and University of Richmond, respectively. Seven years ago, she became a classroom teacher and has drawn on her research background to bring field experiences into the classroom. Her accomplishments include writing an original oceanography curriculum based on national ocean literacy standards and inspiring a school-wide recycling program for paper and plastic and organizing a team of students to participate in the International Coastal Cleanup. Four years ago, she received a MAMEA grant to incorporate field-based oceanography labs into her Earth Science curriculum. Above all, Dawn is most rewarded when students tell her they would like to pursue oceanography in college after their experience with her in high school.

In addition to her teaching duties, Ms. Sherwood is very active in the MAMEA organization. She served on the Board as a state representative for Virginia and a member of the Mentorship committee. She also serves as Coordinator of the Sand Swap, a program that provides educators with samples of sand from all over the world, and organized the Share-A-Thon event at the 2010 annual conference. Her programs are very successful and have helped to promote MAMEA events and encourage membership to area teachers and marine science enthusiasts.

With this award, MAMEA is proud to acknowledge Dawn Sherwood's commitment to marine science and education.