

## 2011 Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association Award Winner

Category: **Teacher of the Year Award**

Name, position, institution:

**Miriam Sutton, Science Teacher  
Croatan High School  
Carteret County, NC**

### Profile

MAMEA was honored to present Miriam Sutton of Croatan High School with its 2011 Classroom Teacher Award. The presentation was announced at the group's annual conference on October 8, 2011 in Williamsburg, VA. Ms. Sutton is currently a science teacher in Carteret County in North Carolina.

Miriam Sutton received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from East Carolina University in 1979 and 1983, respectively. She worked in private industry through the 80s and early 90s developing and managing worksite health promotion programs.

In 1993, she attended the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill to renew her teaching license and returned to teaching in 1994. Ms. Sutton is a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) in Early Adolescence Science and was also awarded Middle School Science Teacher of the Year by the North Carolina Science Teachers Association. She maintains professional memberships in the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the Mid-Atlantic and National Marine Education Association (NMEA), the American Geophysical Union (AGU), and serves on the Education and Public Outreach Committee for the ANDRILL (Antarctic Drilling) Project and the Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence's Researcher Educator Exchange Forum (REEF).

Miriam's mission is to bring the changing world of science into her classroom, to engage her students and encourage them to expand their knowledge of science, and to foster an attitude of lifelong learning. Her passion for teaching is fueled by her quest to bring real scientific inquiry, data, and experiences into the classroom. She continually revises her instructional methods to include student-led scientific explorations, virtual learning strategies, inquiry labs, real-time data, and project-based investigations designed to encourage a better understanding of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. She has completed numerous teacher research programs, including four Teacher-at-Sea projects. When she isn't in her classroom she can usually be found either in, on, or under the sea she loves so dearly.



*Photo: Miriam is an avid scuba diver, here she examines a sea fan on a reef drop-off in Palau, Micronesia.  
Credit: Cindy Burnham*