

The University of Tennessee at Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM) was proud to host the Academy for the first time in over a decade. Conference attendees met in various buildings on campus, and undergraduate students as well as faculty presented research in academic poster and presentation sessions throughout the day.

UTM began with the founding of Hall-Moody Institute in 1900. Today, it is a comprehensive public university located in north-west Tennessee that is home to over 6,800 students. The University offers nearly 20 undergraduate degrees and has a growing online education program. It has a recently-completed state-of-the-art Instructional Technology Center that provides support for all faculty. Additionally, it has recently been

awarded grants to build a mobile energy classroom and to support innovation in teacher preparation. UTM encourages students to get involved outside the traditional classroom, and their programs result in thousands of community and academic service learning hours generated each year by students.

Sources

About UT Martin. Retrieved May 7, 2017 from: <https://www.utm.edu/about/>

Tennessee Academy of Science

Distinguished Science Teacher Award 2017

The 2017 recipient of the Distinguished Secondary Science Teaching Award, which is sponsored by the Tennessee Academy of Science, is **Mrs. Christa Phillips**, from Houston High School in Germantown. Christa is in her tenth year as an educator, having a background in Biochemistry. She has experience teaching multiple science courses, including AP Biology, but her passion is in teaching integrated STEM classes. She is the lead STEM teacher for Germantown Municipal School District and a lead teacher in the West Tennessee STEM Innovation Hub's Master Teacher Corps. Christa also sponsors many of her schools STEM extracurricular activities, such as the Technology Student Association, VEX robotics, and Camp Invention.

Christa Phillips teaches science using a very hands-on, STEM-based approach. She passionately believes that science is

meant to be *experienced*. . .that is, *doing* science, not just *hearing* about science. She says this makes it fun and engaging for everyone, both for her students *and for her*. One of her admirers says her students have developed many amazing projects such as RFID attendance tracking badges and a fire-fighting drone. She also engages numerous STEM industry representatives in her classes to serve as mentors for student projects, and instills in her students the importance of networking and professionalism. She feels that she is teaching today's youth in a way that empowers them to think critically and to be problem-solvers. She believes that this will help them navigate through some of our society's most important and controversial scientific issues.

Please join us in recognizing and thanking Christa Phillips for her Distinguished Secondary Science Teaching efforts!