

## DISTINGUISHED SECONDARY SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER AWARD: 2003

## CONSTANCE BROWN

*McEwen, Tennessee*

Constance Brown was the recipient of the prestigious 2003 Tennessee Academy of Science Distinguished Science Teacher Award. Ms. Brown, a chemistry, physics and physical science teacher at McEwen High School, McEwen Tennessee, received the award on November 15, 2003 during the joint meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science (TAS) and the Tennessee Science Teachers Association (TSTA) held at the Cool Springs Marriott in Franklin, Tennessee.



Ms. Constance Brown

The Tennessee Academy of Science initiated the awards program in 1977 to recognize excellence in secondary science teaching. This award is given annually to one science teacher in Tennessee who has made significant contributions to science teaching and learning. In addition to the award and a trip to the TAS/TSTA meeting, Ms. Brown received a plaque and a \$500 cash award from the TAS.

Ms. Brown graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Chemistry from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville. She has completed additional graduate work at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) and Vanderbilt University. She has also participated in many professional development activities, including the Goldstone Apple Valley Radio Telescope program sponsored by NASA, and the Conceptual Physics program at MTSU. She served as Laboratory Teaching Assistant at Vanderbilt University from 1996–97.

Ms. Brown has made many contributions to science education. Her service to teaching is long-term and outstanding. She is widely recognized as an individual who demonstrates excellence in her science teaching. Her efforts and hard work have been instrumental in planning and implementing innovative and exemplary science programs in her school. For example, she actively involves her students in the Tennessee Junior Academy of Science (TJAS) and other science competitions. During the past two years over fifty of her students have participated in the TJAS competition. She actively involves her students in the Goldstone Apple Valley Radio Telescope project, which provides her students with the opportunity to engage in real time research. To aid her students in their investigations, Ms. Brown also teaches a class in scientific research.

Ms. Brown is recognized for her abilities to create effective learning environments for her students to become actively involved in inquiry and problem solving. She provides opportunities for her students to ask thought provoking questions about the world and engages her students to answer them. She incorporates the use of "hands-on minds-on" and process-oriented activities for the benefit of students' prior knowledge construction and learning. Moreover, Ms. Brown is an award-winning teacher. For example, in 1995 she was the recipient of the Professional Chemists' Award (1995) from the American Institute of Chemists. In 2001 Ms. Brown also was recognized as the Outstanding Science Teacher in Middle Tennessee.