

DISTINGUISHED SECONDARY SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER AWARD: 2007

Ronnie Nixon has been named the recipient of the prestigious Distinguished Secondary School Science Teacher Award for 2007. *Mr. Nixon*, a chemistry and physics teacher, Greenbrier High School, Greenbrier, Tennessee, received the award on November 16, 2007, during the Annual meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science (TAS) at Volunteer State Community College, Gallatin, Tennessee.

This award, administered by the TAS, is given annually to one science teacher in Tennessee who has made significant contributions to science teaching and learning.

Began in 1997 by TAS, the awards program is designed to recognize outstanding science teachers. *Mr. Nixon* received a plaque and a \$500.00 cash award from TAS.

Ronnie has made many contributions to science education. His service to teaching is outstanding. He is widely recognized as an individual who demonstrates excellence in his science teaching. Through his efforts, hard work, and many positive attributes, *Mr. Nixon* has been instrumental in planning and implementing innovative science programs in his school.

For example, he actively involves his students in the Tennessee Junior Academy of Science (TJAS) competition for which his students have had abstracts published in the *TJAS Handbook and Proceedings*. In addition, many of his students have been winners in the Middle Tennessee Science and Engineering Fair. He has also served as Chairperson of the Robertson County Science Fair Committee.

He has recently implemented both AP Chemistry, Chemistry 11, and Scientific Research into the curriculum at Greenbrier High School. He is actively involved in directing student research projects. In addition, his publications include the *Physics*

Laboratory Manual, a work used at his school. He has also made presentations at the Tennessee Science Teachers Conference and has authored nineteen articles and laboratory guides.

Mr. Nixon is recognized for his abilities to create effective learning environments for his students, encouraging them to become actively involved in inquiry and problem solving. He provides opportunities for his students to ask thought-provoking questions about the world and to provide answers them. He incorporates the use of "hands-on minds-on" and process-oriented activities for the benefit of students' learning. Many of his former students are now pursuing degrees in medical and technical fields.

Mr. Nixon is an award-winning teacher. He was nominated for the prestigious Presidential Award of Excellence for Math and Science Teaching; was named to the National Honor Roll of Outstanding American Teachers (2005-2006); was the Middle Tennessee Science and Engineering Fair Teacher of the Year (2005-2006); and was named the "Teacher of the Year" by the Tennessee Junior Science Humanities Symposium (2007).

He is a member of several professional organizations, including the Tennessee Academy of Science, Tennessee Science Teachers Association, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and International Union of Pure and Applied Chemists.

Ronnie received his Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree from Middle Tennessee State University in chemistry with minors in physics and mathematics (1970); M.S. from Southern Institute of Technology (1990); and his teacher certification in chemistry, physics, and mathematics from the University of Tennessee (1975).