

## Tennessee Academy of Science Distinguished Secondary School Science Teacher Award 2011

**Dr. Peggy Bertrand** was designated as the recipient of the 2011 Tennessee Academy of Science (TAS) Distinguished Secondary School Science Teacher Award 28 October 2011 during the TAS annual meeting at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee. TAS has presented this award annually since 1997 to a secondary school educator in the state who has made significant contributions to science teaching and learning. Dr. Bertrand teaches and supervises an AP Physics (B and C) program for between 90 and 140 students at Oak Ridge High School in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. She also teaches Physical World Concepts and Experimental Scientific Research.

Dr. Bertrand was presented with a plaque and \$500 to honor her contribution to science teaching and learning which has been significant. She "serves as a role model for science teachers throughout the state as she actively promotes and engages her students in student-originated, guided inquiry-based science education." Peggy has not only been instrumental in building a strong science curriculum, but she has also helped other teachers acquire technology skills.

Dr. Bertrand's professional work involves both local and national engagement. She has served as an AP consultant for The College Board from 2004 to the present. In this role she has conducted workshops and summer institutes for new and experienced physics teachers. She reads and scores AP physics exams for the Educational Testing Service. In 2005 she served as an AP incentive program reviewer for the US Department of Education, participating in a panel review of proposals to increase participation of low income and at-risk students in AP and

Pre-AP curricula. In addition to serving as editor of *Special Focus Series for Physics* (The College Board) from 2006 to 2007, she has published widely in professional journals, including *The Science Teacher* and *The Physics Teacher*. She has also made presentations at several state and national conferences.

In 2009 Dr. Bertrand was named recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching by the National Science Foundation and was the recipient of the Outstanding High School Physics Teacher Award by the American Association of Physics Teachers. She is the recipient of the 2008 Siemens Award for Advanced Placement Teaching. Bertrand received the Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam Grant in 2009, culminating in participation in the first White House Science Fair in October 2010. She was also honored by the Physics Department at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, for the Outstanding High School Physics Program.

Dr. Jack Rhoton, past president of TAS and executive director of ETSU's Center of Excellence in Mathematics and Science Education, said, "Peggy weaves the wonder of knowing into her daily classroom teaching. She has the unique ability to nurture the natural curiosity of her students, instilling in them the thirst for knowledge and the power to learn."

Bertrand received the B.S. in chemistry with concentrations in physics, math, and biology from Southeastern Louisiana University in 1976; the Ph.D. in organic chemistry with a concentration in physical inorganic chemistry from The Florida State University in 1982; and Teaching Certification from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 1998.