



The Boston Science Partnership

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PRESS RELEASE

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Teachers Honored with Science Teaching Fellowship

Boston, MA. May 20, 2009 - -20 outstanding Boston Public Schools science teachers received a year-long Fellowship in Science Education from the Boston Science Partnership.

The Science Education Fellowship, in its first year, was given to 20 teachers across the Boston Public Schools and recognizes their outstanding contribution to the education of Boston students and the potential for the teachers to expand their own talents and those of their peers. The Fellows represent elementary, middle and high school, and all four science areas: biology, chemistry, physics and earth science.

The Science Education Fellowship is a Boston Science Partnership program (www.bostonscience.org) and funded by the National Science Foundation. These teachers will participate in a comprehensive set of activities designed to improve teachers' own science knowledge and the knowledge of how to best teach science. They will focus on increasing achievement in science for all students from Kindergarten through 12th grade, especially by expanding access to excellent teaching in schools where students are currently underperforming.

Arthur Eisenkraft, Distinguished Professor of Science Education at UMass Boston, explained the goals of the Fellowship. "The Science Education Fellowship is both a recognition of excellent work as well as a commitment to excellence in science education in the Boston Public Schools." The Fellows were congratulated by Dr. Eisenkraft, BPS Science Director Pam Pelletier, and Assistant Chief Academic Officer Shonda Huery.

"All of us in the Boston Public Schools congratulate the first group of Science Education Fellows," said Dr. Carol R. Johnson. "These talented educators have demonstrated a tremendous ability to engage and inspire our students. The Fellowship provides them with a wonderful opportunity to strengthen their skills and accelerate science education throughout the district."

The goals of the program are to build and support a corps of urban teacher leaders; to institute a culture of continuous improvement of instruction; and to increase student achievement by making connections between subjects and between grades so that learning is connected. Fellows will accomplish this by



meeting in small groups with their grade peers, their subject peers and as a whole group. Among the talented group is a Presidential Award winner, a cheerleading coach, two former scientists, one UMass Boston chemistry PhD candidate (and full-time chemistry teacher), a teacher with 34 years of teaching experience and 3 with just three years of experience, a teacher of the Deaf, and teachers of kindergarten and Advanced Placement.

Partner Background

The Boston Science Partnership, an NSF-funded project, is an 8-year project among three core partner institutions: the University of Massachusetts Boston, The Boston Public Schools and Northeastern University. Its goals are to increase the science achievement of students across the city from grades 6 through college.