

Ontario Science Teachers Honoured with Science Teaching Award

Congratulations to Toni McArthur (Huron Park Secondary School, Woodstock) and Linda Phillips (Donald A. Wilson Secondary School, Whitby) who were recently awarded the Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence (AASTE).

Both teachers truly embody the spirit of the award with their innovative lesson plans and dedication to science teaching excellence. Toni McArthur's submission was based on her 'Tee Me Up' lesson plan in which students are engaged in the theoretical location selection and development of a golf course. Throughout the assignment, students learn how their decisions and actions impact various aspects of the environment, and ultimately, human health. Linda Phillips' submission focused on her evolution lesson plan during which students are asked to draw upon knowledge gained in other units, such as the genetics, diversity of living and ecology units. Students are also challenged to apply their learning of the theory of evolution by natural selection to link information to current issues, such as antibiotic and pesticide resistance.

Each teacher will receive an unrestricted \$5,000 grant. Their schools will also receive a restricted \$5,000 grant for the expansion or enhancement of a school science program, science resources, or the professional development of the school's science teachers.

The AASTE program, designed by Amgen Inc., recognizes teachers in the K-12 grade levels in public and private schools whose dedication to science teaching has had a significant impact on the learning and interest of the future generation of scientists.

Amgen is a pharmaceutical and biotechnology company that has been pioneering biotechnology since 1980 and is committed to advancing science to dramatically improve people's lives. Amgen is also strongly committed to science education and has the utmost respect for those extraordinary educators who are able to inspire students to embrace a lifetime of learning.

Application forms for the 2011 award will be available following November 1, 2010. Those interested in applying should visit <http://www.amgen.com/citizenship/aaste.html> for more information.



Linda Phillips,
displaying her AASTE award



Toni McArthur,
accepting her AASTE award