

Teacher Enrichment Program Wins Award

The Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition has recognized Jefferson Lab's Science Activities for Teachers program, or JSAT, with a Programs That Work award.

The VMSC is an alliance of education, corporate, and public policy leaders working together to revitalize mathematics and science education in prekindergarten through graduate school. The coalition recognized JSAT, Jefferson Science Associates and the Jefferson Lab's Science Education staff that manage the program among the field of award recipients at the 2011 Programs That Work event held at the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond on May 10.

According to the VMSC webpage, the awards "recognize exemplary mathematics and science programs for which there is evidence of a positive impact on student or teacher learning."

JSAT is a science enrichment program for fifth-, sixth- and eighth-grade teachers of science. The after-school program, designed to increase teachers' knowledge of the physical sciences and strengthen their teaching skills, runs from in the evenings from September through May. The curriculum includes interactive activities to enhance physical science instruction at the upper-elementary and middle-school levels, and lectures by Jefferson Lab staff on the applications of science. Topics include matter, atomic structure, energy transfer, force and motion, magnetism and electricity, waves

and sound, simple machines, watershed cycle and optics.

Program participants receive supplies and materials so they may conduct all the program activities in their own classrooms, and at the end of the year they participate in a Teachers' Night where they demonstrate their favorite classroom activities to the hundreds of teachers who attend the lab event.

"At the elementary and middle-school level, teachers, with little or no formal background in science education, often find themselves tasked with teaching the science curriculum," explains Lisa Surles-Law, program administrator. "This program is a primer for them and a refresher for those with a formal education in science. JSAT provides attendees with a wealth of materials and activities to take back to their classrooms, and a chance to network with other teachers."

The program, begun in 2006, is one of many programs funded by the Jefferson Science Associates Initiatives Fund. It addresses components of National Science Education Standards and the Virginia Standards of Learning. Information about the JSA Initiatives Fund is available at: <http://www.jsallc.org/IF/IFIndex.html>.

Additional information about JSAT, and the application form for the 2011-2012 session starting in late September, are available at: <http://education.jlab.org/jsat/> or by emailing Surles-Law at: surles@jlab.org.

Members of JLab's Science Education group involved in JSAT were recognized by Eric Rhoades (center), Virginia Department of Education science coordinator, at the VMSC awards event held in May. Pictured with Rhoades are (from left): Brita Hampton, Science Education administrator; Elizabeth Lawson, Jefferson Science Associates Board liaison and Initiatives Fund program manager; Jan Tyler, Science Education manager; and Lisa Surles-Law, JSAT program administrator.

