

THOMAS JEFFERSON NATIONAL ACCELERATOR FACILITY • A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FACILITY

**Deputy AD for Physics Kindles  
Passion for Life, Work**

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Extensive Experience to Lab**

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Jefferson Lab's Science Education group was recognized recently with a 2012 Department of Energy Secretary's Honor Award. The group received the award from Secretary Steven Chu at DOE Headquarters. Pictured with the award and Secretary Chu are Science Education team members (left to right) Telesha Brown, Steve Gagnon, Lisa Surles-Law, Education Manager Jan Tyler and Christine Wheeler. Unavailable for the photo: Brita Hampton.

## Science Ed. Team Receives DOE Achievement Award

Jefferson Lab's Science Education group was recognized among the best in the U.S. Department of Energy during a ceremony at DOE Headquarters in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 4.

The group earned a 2012 Department of Energy Secretary's Honor Award, which recognizes individual and team excellence and achievement. It is the highest non-monetary award presented by the secretary of Energy.

The individuals and teams receiving the awards are selected and presented their awards by Secretary Steven Chu.

Jan Tyler, Science Education manager, and staff members Telesha Brown, Brita

Hampton, Steve Gagnon, Lisa Surles-Law and Christine Wheeler were one of the 11 groups to earn the Secretary Achievement Award.

According to the DOE, the Achievement Award is bestowed upon a group or team of DOE employees and/or contractors who together accomplished significant achievements on behalf of the department, and demonstrated cooperation and teamwork in attaining their goals.

The Science Education team was commended for "developing and implementing model programs that improve the quality of science education," according to the award citation.

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# Science Ed. Wins DOE Award...

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The recognition centered on two of the Science Education group's programs: Becoming Enthusiastic About Math and Science (BEAMS) and JLab Science Activities for Teachers (JSAT).

BEAMS is an innovative, long-running program that reaches out to middle-school students from under-performing schools and helps students make measurable improvements in math and science test scores. BEAMS has been recognized by the National Academy of Science RISE (Resources for Involving Scientists in Education) project as one of only 13 K-12 science education programs across the country where scientists, engineers and other community members have especially effective roles. BEAMS was created at Jefferson Lab 21 years ago.

BEAMS supports Newport News inner-city public school students as they progress from fifth through eighth grade. With guidance and assistance from lab volunteers and Science Ed. staff, BEAMS students conduct a variety of hands-on experiments and activities.

"This program is designed to engage children in the areas of math, science, engineering and technology as part of their education and how knowledge and advancements in these fields impacts the world and society. They also gain awareness of future career opportunities that use STEM knowledge and skills," Tyler explained. "It is always exciting to have students come to the lab and experience some new aspect of science. The program engages the students, and lets them see and experience – first hand – how math and science is used in the real world."

"And the reason this program has been such an ongoing success is because of the great support we get from the lab community," Tyler continued. "We couldn't do this program without the steady, upbeat, engaged volunteers who regularly lead or help with classroom activities and role model visits. It is this direct interaction with scientists, engineers, technologists and administrators that really impresses and excites the students."

The education group has also worked to extend Jefferson Lab's impact in the

community by developing the JLab Science Activities for Teachers program, which is designed to annually empower 60 elementary- and middle-school teachers of science by increasing their knowledge of the physical sciences and by strengthening their teaching skills. JSAT, partly funded by the JSA Initiatives Fund, provides attendees with a wealth of information, materials and activities to take back to their classrooms. It also offers participants the opportunity to network with other teachers and share valuable teaching experiences.

The Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition, an alliance of education, corporate, and public policy leaders working together to revitalize mathematics and science education in prekindergarten through graduate school, recognized JSAT in 2011 with a Programs That Work Award. According to the VMSC web site, the awards "recognize exemplary mathematics and science programs for which there is evidence of a positive impact on student or teacher learning."

"It's one thing to inspire individual students, but this program is gratifying on a much larger level," Tyler noted after receiving the DOE award. "When we can help teachers become more knowledgeable and be more engaging in the classroom, and also give them tools to make class time more productive, JLab is ultimately having an enormous impact on a larger number of students over many years."

"We are very grateful to our many volunteers; we couldn't run these programs without their time, effort and insight," Tyler said. "We thank JSA and the lab leadership and staff for supporting these valuable science education programs, and we are very appreciative to DOE for recognizing their importance and the teamwork required to make them successful."

Related inks:

-- BEAMS: <http://www.jlab.org/news/OnTarget/2012/2012-09/BelowTheFold.html#item2>

-- JSAT: <http://www.jlab.org/news/OnTarget/2012/2012-08/BelowTheFold.html#item6>

-- The Secretary's Honor Awards on PowerPedia at: [https://powerpedia.energy.gov/wiki/Secretary%E2%80%99s\\_Hon-](https://powerpedia.energy.gov/wiki/Secretary%E2%80%99s_Hon-)